

Mark 11:27-12:27

Pray Ask for God's help to hear him speak as you read the passage.
Read Read through the passage a couple of times slowly.

Use the **Structure Tool**. We've seen again and again that Mark likes to group together similar episodes that make the same point. Here we have three confrontations between Jesus and various religious parties of the day. Can you identify the common features using the following table?

	How do we know that the religious leaders are up to no good?	How does Jesus turn the tables?
11:27-33	Context Tool hint: we've met the chief priests and the scribes already in this chapter.	
12:13-17	Context Tool hint: we've met the Pharisees and Herodians already in 3:6.	
12:18-27		

Having noticed the repeated "people-try-to-trap-Jesus-with-hostile-question-but-get-trapped-themselves" structure, the parable sticks out like a sore thumb. What's it doing there? Use the **Context Tool**. How does Jesus' parable relate to the hostile encounters surrounding it?