









Mark 11:27-12:12

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1. Questioning Authority
2. Relocating Authority
3. Rewriting the Story of Authority

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Authority is legitimate power. It implies freedom as well as permission to decide and to act. In the human community people in authority provide leadership, direction and discipline. Within the various social structures of the biblical world, we observe many different positions of authority, including parents with children, masters with servants, elders with tribes and cities, priests within the temple, and judges, prophets and kings whose sphere of authority extended to an entire nation and even beyond the borders of Israel.”

Leland Ryken et al., *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 59.

Mark 11:27-12:12

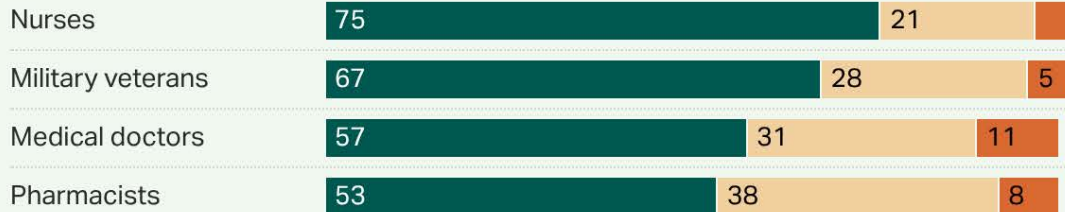
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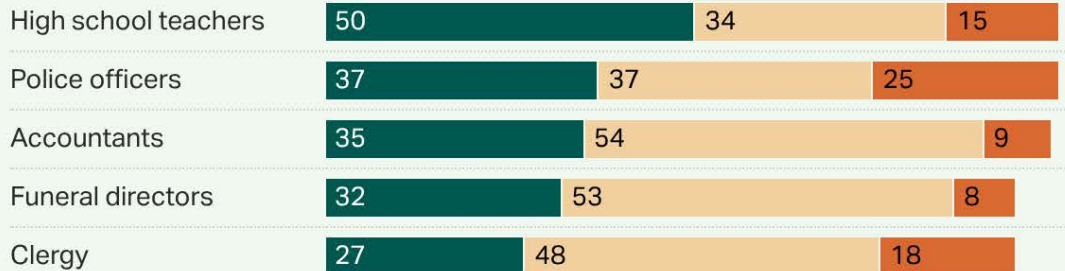


■ % Very high/High ■ % Average ■ % Very low/Low

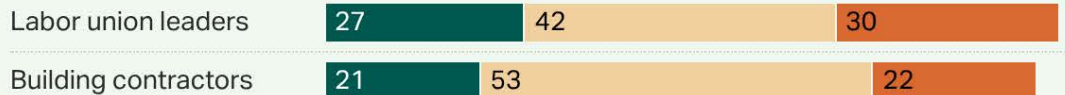
Majority positive



Tilt positive



About even

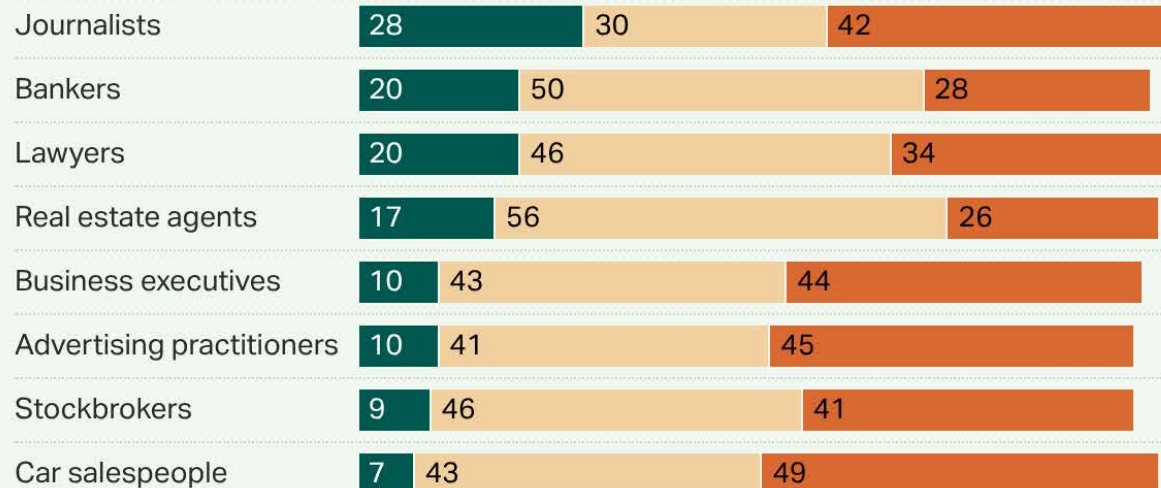


Tilt negative

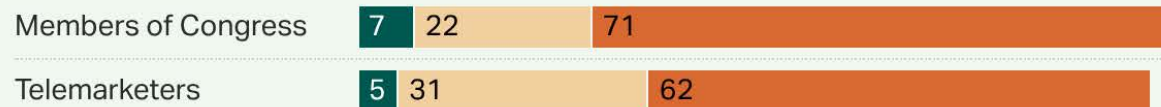


■ % Very high/High ■ % Average ■ % Very low/Low

Tilt negative



Majority negative



Dec. 1-15, 2025

Professions listed in order of % Very high/High. Those with no opinion are not shown.

Recent Changes in Americans' High Ratings of Professions, 2021 to 2024

% Rating honesty and ethics very high or high

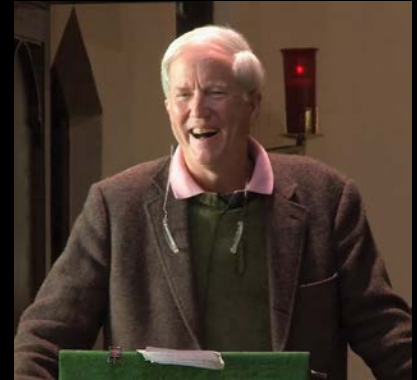
	Dec 1-16, 2021 %	Dec 2-18, 2024 %	Change pct. pts.
Medical doctors	67	53	-14
Judges	38	28	-10
Police officers	53	44	-9
Day care providers	50	42	-8
Pharmacists	63	57	-6
Clergy	36	30	-6
Nursing home operators	27	21	-6
Nurses	81	76	-5
Bankers	27	23	-4
Grade-school teachers	64	61	-3
Business executives	15	12	-3
Advertising practitioners	11	8	-3
Military officers	61	59	-2
Funeral directors [^]	39	37	-2
Auto mechanics	35	33	-2



LET
IT
GO



“If you get clear on the nature of what authority is in your life (which you don't have clear, nobody has it clear in this life), but if you get to the hem of the garment on what authentic and freeing authority is, you can have a life as opposed to being lived.”



Paul Zahl

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Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.” ¹ Jesus then began to speak to them in parables:

**WE ARE
RELOCATING**

IN NOVEMBER



Timothy Keller (1950-2023) 

@timkellernyc



Bob Dylan said, "Ya gotta serve somebody." Translation: No one is really free. You have to live for something and whatever is the meaning of your life is the Lord of your Life.

9:14 AM · Dec 12, 2025 · **12.9K** Views



FINDING PURPOSE IN AN AGE OF EMPTINESS

**THE
MEANING
of
YOUR
LIFE**

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of
FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH
ARTHUR C. BROOKS



Happiness = Enjoyment + Satisfaction + Meaning

Regardless of where you rate on Brooks' scale of meaning, however well-equipped you are with a coherent understanding of who you and where you're meant to go, your journey will still be filled with transgressions and tragedies. And when it does, if your north star is the benchmarks of progress, you will find yourself once again in the Dark Wood, right where you started."

Samuel D. James, "I Feel Useless and Afraid," Cross Street, May 28, 2025,
<https://crossstreet.substack.com/p/i-feel-useless-and-afraid>.

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Mark 1:22

²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Mark 11:27-12:12

“A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ² At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

Mark 11:27-12:12

⁶ “He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

⁷ “But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ⁸ So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

⁹ “What then will the owner of the vineyard do?

Mark 11:27-12:12

He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Haven't you read this passage of Scripture: "'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ¹¹ the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" ¹² Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

This must have been a shocking twist to the story for many of those who heard Jesus, but for the Pharisees, the scribes, and the other religious leaders, it must have been chillingly revealing, given their plots to do away with Jesus. In fact, by this point, everything must have been clear to them. The owner was God. The vineyard was the people of God. The servants were the prophets...

The son was Jesus Himself. And the vinedressers, the ones causing all the trouble, the ones who ignored and mistreated the prophets, and the ones who were planning to do away with the Son, were the religious leaders themselves. We can only imagine how enraged they were that Jesus knew what was in their hearts and so blatantly portrayed their hypocrisy and wickedness.”

R. C. Sproul, Mark, First Edition, St. Andrew's Expository Commentary (Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust, 2011), 299-300.

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⁹ “What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture:

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Jesus rooted the outcome of this parable in the testimony of Scripture. He cited the same Hallel psalm the crowd had sang at the triumphal entry: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone’ (12:10; see Ps 118:22–23). In other words, in God’s good purpose, the one destined for rejection will triumph over all his foes. The result can only be described as of the Lord and marvellous (12:11).







"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

- Matthew 28:18-20 NIV -

Gospel Application

1. I'm not the owner of the vineyard
2. The crowd is a terrible master
3. The Authority holding the universe together is not domination, but Love