

The Confrontation—Part 1
“The King’s Authority”
Matthew 21:23-27

The Confrontation (21:23-22:45)

The Condemnation (23:1-39)

The Second Coming (24:1-25:46)

The Conspiracy (26:1-16)

Kingdom & Authority (cf. Matt. 1:1; 3:2; 4:17; 7:28-29; 8:8-9; 9:4-7; 28:18)

I. **The Jewish Leader’s Q** _____ (v. 23)

- a. **When He entered the temple** = Wednesday morning, the last day of Jesus’ earthly public ministry

Judas Betrays Jesus	26:14-16	14:10-11	22:3-6
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- b. **the chief priests and the elders** [*and the scribes*] = the Sanhedrin (cf. Mark 11:27)

i. **chief priests** = Caiaphas & Annas

ii. **the scribes** = the Pharisees

iii. **the elders** = The Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Zealots, and maybe even the Essenes (cf. Matt. 21:45; 26:3, 47; 27:1–3, 12–20; Luke 3:2; 20:1)

- c. **while He was teaching** = under Solomon’s portico in the Court of the Gentiles and ⁴⁸**...all the people were hanging on to every word He said.**” (cf. Luke 19:47-48; 20:1)

- d. **“By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?”** = **A TRAP** meant to discredit or cause an accusation of blasphemy (cf. Matt. 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15; John. 7:20; 8:48, 52; 10:20–21)

II. **Jesus’ Q** _____ (vs. 24-25a)

- a. Jesus replies what a “checkmate” question!
 i. He doesn’t refuse to answer
 ii. He uses the leader’s disbelief against them
 iii. He basically asks them, who are you to judge My authority?

III. **The Jewish Leader’s A** _____ (vs. 25b-27a)

- a. They must have been shocked!
- b. **“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’**
 i. They would condemn themselves
 ii. They would also be saying that Jesus is the Messiah (cf. John 1:29, 34)
- c. ²⁶**But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the people; for they all regard John as a prophet.”**
 i. They would discredit themselves in the eyes of the crowd
 ii. They might cause an uproar or a riot
- d. **“We do not know.”**

IV. **Jesus’ A** _____ (v. 27b)

- a. **“Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things** = protecting His Divine Timetable to be the literal Passover Lamb of God
 i. Also, as God, Jesus has the authority to remove the light of His revelation from those who refuse to believe (cf. Isa. 6:8-10; 55:6-7; Matt. 13:10-15; Rom. 1:21-32)