

# By Whose Authority?

Mark 11:27-33

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## I. The Question of the Source of Jesus' Authority (27-28)



## The Court of Gentiles



Temple Mount Royal Stoa from northeast

## I. The Question of the Source of Jesus' Authority (27-28)

- Cf. Matt. 21:23 - When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?"
- Cf. Luke 20:1 - On one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders confronted Him,

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### I. The Question of the Source of Jesus' Authority (27-28)

- 1) Chief priests
  - Current high priest (Caiaphas), previous high priests (Annas), other priestly families qualified to serve.
  - Rich aristocracy.
  - Mostly Sadducees.
- 2) Scribes
  - Preserved, interpreted, and taught the Scripture.
  - Mostly Pharisees.
- 3) Elders
  - Elders from leading towns across the country.
  - Lay leaders of the nation.

### I. The Question of the Source of Jesus' Authority (27-28)

- 1) By what authority are you doing things?
- 2) Who gave you this authority to do these things?

### I. The Question of the Source of Jesus' Authority (27-28)

- "These things"?:
  - 1) His Triumphal Entry on Sunday.
  - 2) His cleansing and controlling of the temple.
  - 3) His miracles on Monday afternoon (Matt. 21:14)
  - 4) His teaching Tuesday morning.
    - Cf. Matt. 21:23 - When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?"
    - Cf. Luke 20:1 - On one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders confronted Him,

### II. The Identification of the Source of Jesus' Authority (29-30)

- Cf. 1:5 - All the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.
- Cf. [John 1:19-24](#)
- What was the essence of His ministry?
  - 1:4 - John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
  - Cf. Acts 19:4 - Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."
  - [John 1:24-34](#)

### III. The Rejection of the Source of Jesus' Authority (31-33)

- Only two alternatives...
  - 1) John's ministry was from heaven.
  - 2) John's ministry was from men.
    - Luke 20:6 - "But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet."

### Three Parables about Israel's Leaders

- 1) The Two Sons
  - the leaders were the son who only pretended to obey.
- 2) The Vine Growers
  - the leaders rejected and killed the prophets, and will kill the Son.
- 3) The Wedding Feast
  - the leaders refused the wedding invitation so others must be invited.

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### Application...

- **1)** God gave Jesus the authority to teach and to do all that He accomplished during His ministry.
  - **a)** God has given Jesus the authority to forgive sins (2:5, 10).
  - **b)** God has given Jesus the authority to give eternal life to those the Father has given Him (John 17:1-2).
  - **c)** To those who receive Him, Jesus has given the authority to become the children of God (John 1:12).
  - **d)** God has given Jesus the authority to judge every human life (John 5:26-29).

### Application...

- **2)** If Jesus has all authority, then we must all obey His Words.
  - Matt. 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
  - John 7:14-16; 8:26-28, 38, 40; 12:49-50

### Application...

- **3)** If Jesus has true authority from God, then we must listen to and obey those who represent Him – the apostles and their writings.
  - John 13:20 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."