

By What Authority?
Discussion Questions for Mark 11:27-33

1. Who are some authorities or experts who influence public opinion (such as media, politicians, religious leaders, etc.)?
2. What are some examples of authority?
3. In what ways should a Christian's values differ from those of "the experts"?
4. Where did the events of this story take place? (11:27)
5. Who confronted Jesus? Why? (11:27–28)
6. What were "these things" to which the religious leaders referred? (11:28)
7. How did the religious leaders challenge Jesus' authority? (11:28)
8. What do Jesus' actions tell you about His attitude toward the religious leaders of His day? (11:28–33)
9. How did Jesus answer the challenge put to Him? (11:29–33)
10. What condition did Jesus place on answering the challenge put to Him? (11:29)
11. How did Jesus challenge his accusers to stand up for the truth? (11:30–32)
12. How did Jesus expose his accusers' true motives? (11:30–32)
13. Why was Jesus' question so difficult for the religious leaders to answer? (11:29–32)
14. How did the religious leaders respond to Jesus' question? (11:33)
15. How did Jesus silence His critics? (11:33)
16. What were the priorities of the chief priests, teachers of the law, and elders who confronted Jesus?
17. What do you think prompted the religious leaders to question Jesus about His authority?
18. Why do you think Jesus decided not to answer the religious leaders directly, but instead posed another question in response?

19. By whose authority did Jesus clear the temple?
20. Why do you think Jesus did not want to reveal to the religious leaders the source of His authority?
21. In what ways do human authorities challenge God's authority?
22. How can we ensure that we follow God's authority rather than the "authorities" who challenge His Word?
23. When have you ever questioned God's authority in your life?
24. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' attitude toward people who reject His authority?
25. What could you learn from Jesus' example in this episode about dealing with people who try to trick or discredit Christians?
26. When is it most difficult to submit to God's authority?
27. How can we find the strength to rely completely on God's authoritative Word rather than trust in our own abilities?
28. What does God do for us when we completely turn over to Him the areas of our lives that we have tried to manage on our own?
29. What specific steps can you take this week to obey God's authority in one area of your life?
30. How should you respond the next time someone challenges you for doing what God has told you to do?