

By What Authority?

Mark 11:27-33

Context: After His cleansing and teaching in the temple, Jesus is confronted and questioned by the religious authorities.

As you look at the authority of Jesus...

1. _____ the questions (vs. 27-28)

- A. The religious leaders were furious with Jesus about the temple-cleansing incident (see 11:15–19). They wanted to know who authorized him to do such things (11:27–28). (Tony Evans)
- B. The leaders wanted to know what credentials Jesus—an untrained, unrecognized, seemingly self-appointed rabbi—claimed that would authorize Him to do what He was doing. (John MacArthur)

2. _____ John's ministry (vs. 29-32)

- A. John's baptism encapsulates John the Baptist's entire ministry. From heaven means "from God." Jesus's question turned the tables on the Pharisees. If they admitted that John was sent by God, they would have to admit the same about Jesus. (Ross McLaren)
- B. The chief priests and scribes refused to commit to a response, pretending not to know whether John was an authentic prophet of God. If the confrontation between Jesus and the religious authorities were a game of chess, this would have been checkmate. (Charles Swindoll)

3. _____ the Obvious (vs. 33)

- A. Given their dilemma, the religious leaders chose to avoid the question by throwing in the towel: We don't know. They were self-serving hypocrites. They demanded that Jesus answer their questions truthfully, but they had no interest in the truth—only in advancing their own agenda. Therefore, Jesus refused to answer them. (Tony Evans)
- B. Of course, this was not just a question for first-century scribes and Pharisees. It is the supreme question that unbelievers face today. Perhaps you are one who has not yet submitted to Christ because you doubt His authority. (R.C. Sproul)