

A QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

--MARK 11:27-33--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning, we have the beginning of the final confrontation between the Lord Jesus Christ and the religious leaders. They wanted to know by what authority and who had given Him this authority to do the things that He done. For three and half years Jesus had clearly shown that His authority was from God, and He also said this repeatedly. Even though Jesus Christ had infinite and absolute authority, it was always exercised in perfect agreement with the will of the Father. This clash between Jesus and the religious leaders is the climax of three years of animosity on their part.

I. A CONFRONTATION (Mark 11:27-28)

- a. After the lesson on prayer that He had taught His disciples that morning when they discovered the withered fig tree that Jesus had cursed, they continued into _____.
- b. As He taught and preached the Gospel He certainly began with the _____ news that no one is righteous, not even one.
- c. Christ's powerful and _____ preaching both alarmed and enraged the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders.
- d. This delegation came to Jesus in a desperate attempt to _____ Him before He further discredited them in the eyes of the people.
- e. This group refused to give up on their plan to _____ Jesus into discrediting Himself publicly.

II. A DILEMMA (Mark 11:29-33a)

- a. Jesus knew they were trying to trap Him, and His response evaded their clumsy attempt to _____ Him in His words.
- b. Here is the Lord Jesus' counter question, "*Was the baptism of John from _____, or from men? Answer Me.*" (Mark 11:30, NASB95)
- c. This challenge by the Lord Jesus turned the tables on the Lord's attackers and put them in an impossible _____.

- a. Since these were the only two alternatives that could be the answer and neither of them were acceptable to the religious delegation, their reply to Jesus was, "*We do not _____.*" (Mark 11:33a, NASB95)

II. A CONDEMNATION (Mark 11:33b)

- a. There was nothing more they could say, Jesus had reduced this delegation from the Sanhedrin to _____ as they stood humiliated before Him.
- b. There is a limit to God's _____.
- c. Those who persistently and hard-heartedly _____ the light of the gospel will eventually be abandoned by God to judicial darkness. (Genesis 6:3; Nehemiah 9:30; Isaiah 63:10; Jeremiah 11:7, 11; Luke 19:41-42)

CONCLUSION:

Jesus clearly displayed that as the Messiah, as God's Son He possessed unique authority. Jesus delegated this authority to His apostles. The apostles having that authority delegated to them by Jesus spoke the same truth with boldness and wielded the same power that Jesus did.

The authority to proclaim the truth of the gospel and the truth of God's Word has been passed down to all Christians. Paul wrote these words to Titus, "*These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.*" (Titus 2:15, NASB95) Even though Titus was not an apostle, he was still commanded to proclaim sound doctrine with all authority. Believers may confidently proclaim the truth of God's Word with authority.

When we consider this lost world that we live in, the most important thing that we can give them is the truth of God's Word. The only way people can hear this truth is through believers, who are the instruments which God has chosen. Paul wrote in Romans 10:14, "*How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?*" (Romans 10:14, NASB95) The authority is now ours to boldly proclaim the gospel to the world.