

The Authority of Jesus Questioned - Mark 11:27-33

Topics: Authority, Conflict, Doubt, Fear, Heaven, Power, Questions

Open It

- * 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"?

Explore It

- 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)

Get It

- 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?

Apply It

- * 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?