

Context (v27-28)

Jesus has just ridden into Jerusalem as a KING (Mark 11:1-11)

[Powerpoint 1]

And then declared the ungodly state of the Nation (using a fig tree without fruit) (Mark 11:12-14)

And then cleaned out the temple of moneychangers in the temple courts (Mark 11:15-17)

[Powerpoint 2]

The chief priests and teachers of the law are not happy (11:18) about Jesus popularity:

- a. Being declared as King
- b. Having their nation being declared as ungodly and fruitless
- c. Having their temple cleaned out

Jesus' popularity and success will affect their comfortable and status filled lives

[Powerpoint 3]

Because

- a. People will follow Jesus instead of them
- b. Romans won't like Jesus' popularity and might close down the temple and the Judaism (Jewish religion)

So the Jewish Council - Sanhedrin - send a delegation to Jerusalem

Delegation (v27) of chief priests, teachers of the law and elders

It would be like - if NSW Presbyterian Assembly - heard that I was teaching something different or expressing an authority - they might send other godly men to check it out

So they come along and ask Jesus in v28:

"By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?"

[Powerpoint 4-Authority]

We'd better define authority before we go any further

Authority Definition - *the power or right to a) give orders b) make decisions and c) enforce obedience*

Does Jesus have the power or right to *give orders* to the Jewish people, to *make decisions* that affect the Jewish people - and the power and right to *enforce obedience* from the Jewish people?

There's the famous story of a US Navy ship off the coast of Ireland doing Naval exercises

It was a very foggy night - the Ship lookout noticed a light on the starboard bow - and called to the captain:

"Light, bearing on the starboard bow"

The Captain asked: "Is it steady or moving towards us"

The Lookout said "It is steady, Captain"

The Captain told the signal man to signal the ship and tell them we are on a collision course and suggest they change course, twenty degrees

Back came the signal reply: "It would be advisable of you changed courses twenty degrees"

The Captain was furious and said "I am the captain of this vessel - change your course twenty degrees, immediately"

Back came the signal reply: "I'm a seaman second-class - And I suggest you change course twenty degrees"

The Captain was running out of patience and shouted to signalman - send a signal "I am a US Battleship-change course twenty degrees"

Back came the signal reply "I am Lighthouse - your call Captain"

The Point is when you question authority - you need to be sure you know whose authority you are questioning?

The chief priests, teachers of the law and the elders - were like the captain on the battleship - they didn't realize they were on a collision course with a very special lighthouse - Jesus - the Light of the World

Jesus' 1st Response (v29-30) - From Heaven or Humans?

As they ask Jesus the big question:

"By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?"

They don't realize fully who they are questioning....

[Powerpoint 5]

Jesus replies with a question of His own

I get in trouble at home for answering a question with a question?

But Jesus does it quite a bit

And his question is a question we should ask about lots of religious practices - in fact we should ask it about everything we're involved in

Jesus asks if John the Baptist ministry of baptizing people for repentance - is that baptism something that came from Heaven or from Humans

Is it from Heaven or from Humans?

What a great question to ask on things like:

Infant Baptism?

Sprinkling or fully immersed or pouring for Baptism?

Different Denominations of our churches

Keeping the Sabbath

Music in church - hymns, psalms only - instruments? Drums?

Versions of the Bible?

[Any others?]

Application: What things in our lives do we need to ask the same question - is it from Heaven or human origin?

How will the chief priests and teachers of the Law answer Jesus' question?

The Huddle's Response (vv31-33)

[Powerpoint 6-Huddle's Response]

It's like they get in a huddle to decide what they will reply to Jesus

Their Logic or thought process goes like this:

If we say from Heaven - we should have believed John and what he said about Jesus - the Lamb of God (John 1:26-36)

If we say from humans - we will be disagreeing with the general public - who believed John was a true prophet

Jesus has given the chief priests, teachers of the law and elders - 2 choices

- a. From Heaven = therefore they should have believed John
- b. From Humans = therefore they will be disagreeing with the general public, and they feared a backlash from the people

Choosing option **a.** means their status is threatened by Jesus' teaching and popularity - if Jesus gets too popular - the temple will get closed down by the Romans - and freedom of Jewish religion will go - and chief priests and teachers of the law and elders won't be needed

Choosing option **b.** means their status will be threatened by the people - they will be going against the people who believed John - and they will be out of favour with the people

They are on the spot!

Whichever option they take - their status and popularity is threatened!

It never occurs to them to think spiritually!

It never occurs to them to think about Jesus' heavenly origin and His earthly mission...AND that Jesus might just be who He really says He is - the Son of God!

They have a choice a or b. Will they reply a or b?

They actually reply c - We don't know? Literally - we cannot tell you - we will not tell you! We're not telling you!

This is a very dangerous response to Jesus -

If you're not prepared to recognize the authority of Jesus and you question His authority - He's not going to be impressed and He will not have His authority questioned!

[Powerpoint 7-Matthew 7 MSG]

Matthew 7 - MSG

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

²¹⁻²³“Knowing the correct password—saying ‘Master, Master,’ for instance—isn’t going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—*doing* what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, ‘Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.’ And do you know what I am going to say? ‘You missed the boat. All you did was use me to **make yourselves important**. You don’t impress me one bit. You’re out of here.’

The religious leaders questioned Jesus authority - to make themselves look important

Application: As we serve Jesus - are we undermining Jesus' authority by trying to make ourselves look more important than Jesus?

Applications

1. Why do we question Jesus' authority?

[Powerpoint 8-Why do we question?]

a. We have pre-conceived ideas/prejudices - we think it's better to follow popular opinion and follow the crowd

Don't follow solely what the crowd says and simply follow the crowd through the wide gate (Matt 7:13-14)

In Noah's day you would have been flooded out

In Joshua's day you would have stayed wandering around the wilderness

Instead follow the narrow gate - that leads to being under the authority of Jesus

b. We think our up-bringing by our parents is enough

Don't rely solely on what your parents say either - "if it was good enough for mum and dad - it's good enough for me"

Yes we must honour and love our parents but - Matt 10:37 - but don't love them and their opinion/teachings more than Jesus!

c. We rely too heavily on the preacher - some even follow the preacher from church to church. Don't rely solely on what preachers say - instead we need to be like the Berean Christians and check it out for ourselves

¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)

d. We rely too heavily on traditions. Don't rely on traditions - they can end up replacing God's Word - see Mark 7:6-9

⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

⁷They worship me in vain;

their teachings are merely human rules.^{7[a]}

⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

⁹And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe^[b] your own traditions!

e. **We rely on our consciences.** Don't fall for the world's idea of “let your conscience be your guide”

Ask Paul (Saul) how that went for him as he had Christians killed? (Acts 26:9-11)

⁹“I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.

f. **We rely on our own wisdom.** We think we know what's best for ourselves and no one is going to tell us what to do! Don't fall for human wisdom - Isaiah 55:8-9; 1 Cor 1:18-29; 1 Cor 2:9-12 and **Prov 3:5-6**

g. **We rely on our feelings too much.** If it feels good - it must be okay. Don't rely solely on feelings - Prov 14:12; 28:26; **Jer 10:23**

h. Flip side we can over rely on the OT too much. We get bogged down with all the rules in OT. Don't rely solely on OT - remember it's a sign post to the NT and Jesus - **Gal 3:19; 3:24; Rom 7:4, 6; Heb 8:7-13**

The bottom line is:

It's perfectly okay to rely on Jesus' authority - we can trust Him

Why is it perfectly okay?

2. Why is it okay to rely on Jesus' Authority?

[Powerpoint 9-Okay]

a. Because of Jesus' Jesus' Power

He is Better - Book of Hebrews - 8:6; 7:24-25; 1:3a

He is God - Col 2:9 Deity

He is superior - Col 1:15-23 - firstborn=1st in rank, superior in rank

He is the Word of God in flesh form -John 1:14

b. And His Word gives authority:

Great Commission - all authority - Matt 28:16-20 and Acts 1:8

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

Spiritual authority Heb 13:17-18

¹⁷Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

¹⁸Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

Civil leaders authority -Rom 13:1-6; Col 3:22-24

13 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no

reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

Employers - Col 3:22-24

²²Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Household authority - Eph 5:22-25; 1 Cor 11:3; Eph 6:1; Col 3:20

²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

³But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man,^[a] and the head of Christ is God.

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Co-workers authority under Jesus - 1 Cor 3:5-9

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned

to each his task.⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

If Jesus assigns authority in these areas in His Word - we are obliged to simply obey it without questioning - as long as the authority he assigned in these areas is being used according to God's Holy Word

It is also perfectly okay to rely on Jesus' authority:

c. Because of what He Provides us

Jesus provides Authority over sin - Mark 2:5 - ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."
replacing guilt with forgiveness - no earthly authority can do that -

Jesus provides Authority over death - replacing our physical death with eternal life - replacing our spiritual death with new life in Jesus - Mark 5:22-43

²²Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

³⁶ Overhearing^[a] what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat

and John 11-Lazarus - John 11:25 - He is the resurrection and the life

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

He is - The way, truth life (John 14:6)

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Conclusion-Final Word on Authority

[Powerpoint 10- Final Word]

Bottom Line - Jesus - as God - is the Supreme (highest in rank) Authority

And we have no right to question it!

As Paul puts it in Romans 9:20-24

²⁰But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? **"Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"**²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

²²What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? ²³What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—²⁴even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

Jesus has supreme authority - so don't question it - just accept it!