

"By What Authority"?

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MARK 11:27-33

INTRO. [A] The temple at Jerusalem was God's house.

1. In this temple He met His people.
2. In this place He manifest His presence.
3. In this place He received worship.

[B] When His Son was on this earth He came to this house.

1. We do not know how many times He came.
- LUKE 2:27 2. He came as an infant. "... and he came by the Spirit into the temple..."
- LUKE 2:41 3. He came every year. "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover".
- LUKE 2:42 4. He came when 12 years old. "And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem..." He was found 3 days later hearing and questioning the doctors. He stated when questioned that the temple was His father's business. The religious leaders knew Him well.

[C] This would be His last visit to the temple.

1. He came and, "looked round about upon all things".
- Vs. 15-17 2. He cleansed the temple.
- Vs. 27 3. Jesus came again to Jerusalem and walked in the temple. He turned things over.

I. Jesus Was Questioned In The Temple.

[A] Those who questioned Him:

1. They had every right to do so.
2. They had an obligation to do so.
- Vs. 27b 3. "... there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders".

Vs. 32 B. "But if we shall say, of men; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed". (2)

1. "counted" = ἔχων = "to have, to hold, implying continued possession, hence, to have as in one's mind. To have a firm mental grasp.

2. Their decision was poll driven.

3. This is the least defensible of all excuses for those who are God's servants, "they feared the people".

C. Their bad decision.

Vs. 33a 1. "We cannot tell".

2. Agnosticism, "I Just don't know", is often the philosophy of cowards.

D. The final word from Jesus.

Vs. 33b 1. "...Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things".

2. "authority" = (I, B, 3) same

3. Jesus never went beyond words. Words are sufficient witnesses. He did no miracles. He did not call fire down from heaven. He continued to teach them, chapter 12.

IV. We should Ask Ourselves And Others, By What Authority?

A. There are some things we must never consider as sources of authority.

1. My heart told me... "The heart deceitful and..."

2. My conscience directed me... Gentiles still sinners.

3. God spoke to my heart. How do you know?

4. The Holy Spirit led me...