

By What Authority?

Matthew 21:23-32

Intro:

- A. **As Jesus taught in the temple He was interrupted by His enemies.**
 - 1. "...came unto Him as he was teaching..." v.23
 - 2. They were distraught by all the things that Jesus had done. He had returned from Bethany.

- B. **They asked Him two questions.**
 - 1. "By what authority doest thou these things"?
 - 2. "Who gave thee this authority"?
 - 3. authority = εξουσια = delegated power, authority to do anything; permission, license

- C. **What "things" do they mean?**
 - 1. The triumphal entry as a king.
 - 2. The cleansing of the temple.
 - 3. The children crying in the temple.

I. The Answer Of Jesus.

- A. **Jesus proposed trading information. V.24**
 - 1. "I also will ask you one thing..."
 - 2. "I in likewise will tell you..."

- B. **The information Jesus sought. V.25**
 - 1. "The baptism of John, whence was it?"
 - 2. "from heaven or of men?"

II. The Dilemma Of The Chief Priests And Elders.

- A. **"..And they reasoned with themselves, saying..." v.25a**
 - 1. reasoned = διαλογιζομαι = "to think through"
 - 2. "...if we shall say, From heaven..."
 - 3. "...he will say..Why did ye not believe him?"
 - 4. "But if we shall say, of men; We fear the people for all hold John as a prophet" v.26
 - 5. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell." V.27a

- B. **Jesus stands His ground.**

1. "Neither tell I you by what authority..."
v.27b.
2. Jesus knew their hearts.

II. Divine Authority Must Be Obeyed.

- A. **the parable of the two sons.**
1. "But what think ye"? **v.28-30**
 2. Think about this, form an opinion.
 3. "Whether of them twain did the will of his father"? **v.31**
 4. "They say unto him, The first."
- B. **The application of the parable.**
1. This is not Jew and Gentile.
 2. The publican and the harlots where the ones who repented and entered the kingdom.
- C. **The chief priests and elders would not accept authoritative information.**
1. righteousness = δικαιοσυνη = "the being of doing what is just and right: **v.32**
 2. The religious leaders were saying, we are doing God's work but they weren't. When they heard and saw authoritative figures they would not repent and enter His vineyard.

