

36- The Authority of the Master Mark 11:27-33

There are a lot of authority figures in our lives. May I say however the ultimate authority we answer to is God?

I- The Question of Authority:

Mark 11:27 And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, 28 And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?

They questioned His right, His authority to do what He was doing. After all they had not given Him permission which they felt He should have done. Notice Jesus reply to their question. *Mark 11:29 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me.*

Jesus asked them about John's baptism. John was the one who was promised in the Old Testament that would come and prepare the way for Messiah. *Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

Surrounding the events of the birth of John we see in Luke's gospel that John was to be the one who fulfilled this promise. *Luke 1:15-17 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

We see that with their reasoning among themselves about how to answer the question of Jesus and their reply. *Mark 11:31 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him? 32 But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed. 33 And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell.*

They could not tell was their answer, an answer that was politically correct but faithless. The reply of Jesus shut the matter off quickly. *Mark 11:33b ...And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.* Jesus left the question unanswered just as they had. He had inferred that He got His power from the same source that John the Baptist had derived his, God.

II- The Answer Not Given:

So by what authority did Jesus do all He did? There were really only two options. One was God and the other Satan. Some accused Him of doing things by the power of the devil. *Matthew 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.*

The devil had offered Jesus power if He would worship him but that attempt failed to allure Him. *Luke 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.* Jesus did not derive His authority from the prince of darkness.

Jesus' authority was from God. Jesus told us in *Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

Jesus worked with the power of the Holy Spirit during His ministry. Notice *Luke 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.*

Why did Jesus avoid the question. If He said it was by His authority they would have arrested Him for the damage He had done. If Jesus said it was from God that He had authority they would have accused Him of blasphemy, which they ultimately accused Him of.

III- Life's Authority of the Master:

While He did not answer the question of the rulers it does not diminish the fact of His authority in any way.

1- As Creator and Sustainer of Life: *Colossians 1:16-17 ESV For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

2- As Redeemer: *1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:* Because of redemption, He has authority over our lives. Notice *1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

3- As Judge: We must realize that the authority of Christ reaches past this life into the next where He will Judge us. *John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son... 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

There will be no way to escape the authority of Christ. He may not have answered the Pharisees but we know that He is the God Almighty, the all-powerful one.

Have you placed your life under the authority of God through Christ?