

SERMON OUTLINE

In Mark 11:27-31 Jesus reveals the unbelief of the Sanhedrin delegation by engaging in a 4-round Q & A session.

- I. The religious leaders ask a rebellious question (vs. 27-28).
- II. Jesus asks a revealing question (vs. 29-30).
- III. The religious leaders give an evasive answer (vs. 31-33a).
- IV. Jesus gives an authoritative answer (v. 33b).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 7, 2016

Passage: Mark 11:27-33

Memory Passage: John 17:1-3

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 1:9-11, 21-28, 2:1-10, 18-28, 3:1-6, 13-16, 22-27, 6:7, 9:7, 11:15-19, 27-33.**

Authority has been a regular theme in Mark that has its fullest and most direct statement in this week's text. As you read these passages which either use the word "authority," teach us about the source of Jesus' authority, or have authority as a subtext, answer the following questions: What do you learn about the source of Jesus' authority? Over what does Jesus claim authority? What does His authority allow Him to do? How do the leaders respond to Jesus' authority? How do the crowds respond to Jesus' authority?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 11:27-33.** What happened the last time Jesus walked in the temple? Why are His actions different now?

(b) To what "things" does the Sanhedrin delegation (from here forward in this lesson referred to as "leaders") refer (v. 28)?

(c) Explain the difference between the 2 questions asked in v. 28.

(d) What do you learn about the leaders' motives, fears, assumptions, or concerns from the nature of these questions?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 11:27-33.** Are the leaders questioning Jesus to learn from Him or challenge Him? How do you know?

(b) Why does Jesus answer the leaders' questions with another question?

(c) Why does Jesus use "from heaven" and to what is He referring by using this phrase?

(d) Explain what John's baptism has to do with Jesus' authority (remember what you have learned throughout our study of Mark about John's role, the OT prophecy about him, and God's reaction to those who rejected him [e.g. Malachi 4 & 5])?

(e) Why does Jesus' answer to their questions depend on their answer to His (cf. v. 29)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 2:6-8, 8:16-18; 9:33-34, 11:27-33.** The Greek word translated "discussed" ($\delta\iota\alpha\lambda\omicron\gamma\acute{\iota}\zeta\omicron\mu\alpha\iota$, v. 31) is found 7 times in Mark (translated "question" in 2:6, 8). Describe the commonalities of the 7 contexts (see references above). In other words, what is being "discussed" and for what reason?

(b) What confession would the leaders make if they admitted that John's baptism was from heaven?

(c) What would the people think of the leaders if they answered “from men,” and why does this concern the leaders?

(d) Do you think “I don’t know” is a true answer? Why or why not? What do you think they truly believed about John’s baptism and Jesus’ authority?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark. 11:27-33.** In what areas of your life do you recognize God’s authority but refuse to grant it? Remember that every time you reject God’s word and pursue sin you reject the authority of God in your life (“I know what God says, but . . .”).

(b) What are the authorities in your life (both real and imposters) that compete for your allegiance, and what are ways you both win & lose these battles for your obedience?

(c) The leaders in our passage fear men more than God. In what ways do you fall, or are tempted to fall, into this trap? How should you cultivate a stronger, more practical fear of God so the struggle of fearing men drifts into your rearview mirror?

(d) How does Mark 11:27-33 help you identify false teachers & leaders (both official, i.e. elders, and unofficial, i.e. disciplers, small group leaders, Sunday school teachers, etc.)? Remember, only apply the main points of the text!

DATE: February 7, 2016

PASSAGE: Mark 11:27-33

Who’s in Charge Here?