

I. Jesus is restoring the Temple

- A. He has already “cleansed” it
- B. He is now restoring it
- C. This means loss for its leaders (“chief priests, scribes, principal men of the people,” 19:47; “chief priests, scribes, elders,” 20:1)
- D. They want him dead but are afraid of the crowd (19:48).

II. The first attack: cast doubt on his authority.

- A. Questioning Jesus: a play for power
- B. Authority – **the right to say or do something** (see Luke 4:6,32,36; 5:24; 7:8; 9:1; 10:19; 12:5; Acts 26:18)
- C. What gives Jesus the *right* to disrupt civil and religious order?

III. Jesus' question

- A. Answering a question with a question
- B. Where did John the Baptist's authority come from?
- C. The rulers' dilemma
- D. Not just a witty put-down

IV. The authority of Jesus

- A. The authority of Jesus is a threat to order. (Psalm 2)
- B. The authority of Jesus does not depend on public opinion.
- C. The authority of Jesus comes from God.
- D. The authority of Jesus is something he uses to please God, not man.
- E. The authority of Jesus means that he does not fear, but loves people. (1 John 4:18)