

Mark 11:27-33

### **The Authority of Jesus Challenged**

<sup>27</sup> And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, <sup>28</sup> and they said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup> Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me." <sup>31</sup> And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>32</sup> But shall we say, 'From man'?"—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. <sup>33</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

Three lessons on mankind's natural rejection of God's authority

1. Our sin makes us naturally opposed to Jesus (vv.27-28)
2. Our sin blinds us to the evidence for Jesus (vv.29-31)
3. Our sin makes us devote ourselves to what we want most (vv.32-33)

Application

1. Repent and believe the Gospel.
2. Faithfully preach the Gospel.
3. Lovingly obey Jesus.