

Mark 11:27-33
The Matchless Authority Of Jesus
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Jesus has absolute authority, regardless of how we respond to it

1. Introduction. Using mom/dad's name.

1. Told my brother or sister time to come home, no big deal. Unless I said, "mom said" or "dad said"
 1. Invoked some serious authority. And if you didn't obey, oh boy.
 2. I do it with my own children now.

2. Today we are going to watch a conflict take place once again in the Temple courtyard, as the Jewish religious leaders seek to end this ministry of Jesus.

3. Open with me to Mark 11

1. Brief Background: Set our context.
 1. Visit one : (11:11) Jesus comes and does some Temple Recon:
 2. Visit Two: (11:15-17) The driving out!
 1. The response by the leaders: (11:18) Seeking a way to destroy him.
 3. Visit Three: 11:27-34. What we will look at today.

4. Read with Me 11:27-34

5. The Calculated Stroll (11:27) **BLANK #1**

1. Not just another day in the temple.
 1. Jesus is expecting something to happen
2. Returning to the place of the crime
3. Teach and walking around
 1. Drew a crowd. Not just to hear him teach, but to see what is going to happen.
4. Jesus is like a healthy live bait fish swimming through a hungry school of tuna.
 1. And sure enough the religious leaders take the bait.
 2. But this is no reactionary impulsive approach.

1. Remember 11:18? This is the...

6. The **Collaborative** Scheme (11:28) **BLANK #2**

1. This is no new development in Mark (2:6, 3:22, 8:11, 10:2, 11:18)
 1. This is A good thing to follow up in your home groups.
2. Throughout all Mark, They had been seeking how they would trap and destroy Jesus. And here he is, walking around and teaching!
3. And so they come and question him. Seeking to trap him by his own words!
 1. Who are they?
 1. Chief Priests: Temple Authority: Responsible to represent the people to God. In charge of the temple worship
 2. Scribes: Torah Authority: Copyists, Experts of the Jewish life and Law, and the additions to the law.
 3. Elders - Local town and synagogue authority, guardians of religious traditions.
4. How do we know they aren't just curious about where he gets his authority?
 1. Mark 3:22: They have already concluded where he gets his authority.
 1. Beelzebul/Prince of the Demons/Satan.
5. They are looking to trap Jesus in his response.
 1. If he says "by man": These men are the most powerful religious figures and can discredit his entire ministry by their authority. And do it in front of this crowd listening to him teach.
 2. Is He says "by God": Then they can accuse him of blasphemy as he claimed to be able to forgive sins, and be lord over the Sabbath. Clearly things only God has authority to do.
6. So here they have done it! They have collaborated and schemed and have got Jesus right at the edge of their trap, in front of this crowd of people.
 1. How short lived that feeling must have been, as Jesus immediately wages the **Counter Attack**

7. The **Counter** Attack (11:29-30) **BLANK #3**

1. Jesus responds with a question: a common thing for Rabbi's to do
 1. Turns the tables right back on them.

1. You answer me, ill answer you. And even in effect, showing already that these men don't have authority to simply demand answers from Jesus.
2. Was the baptism of John from heaven or man?
3. A seemingly odd question.
 1. Lets remind ourselves about John in relation to Jesus.
2. **How Mark begins his Gospel**
 1. **Read Mark 1:1-11**
2. So coming back to Jesus' question.
 1. You tell me where John's authority to do his ministry came from. And Ill tell you where mine comes from.
3. They slink away to discuss how they can respond to Jesus' question.
 1. They come up with an absolutely **Cowardly Response**.
8. The **Cowardly** Response (11:31-33) **Blank #4**
 1. Listen to the discussion of the most learned, "spiritual" men in all Jerusalem!
 1. **vs 31.**
 2. They are caught in the very trap they wanted to set for Jesus!
 1. If they say "from Heaven", he will say "why didn't you believe him".
 1. Didn't believe John about what?
 1. Ultimately his testimony about Jesus!
 1. After me comes one who is mightier than I (Jesus)
 2. Im not worthy to unite his sandal! (Jesus)
 3. Baptize with the Holy Spirit (Jesus)
 2. If Johns ministry was from God, then what he said about Jesus must be true!
 1. Definitely not going to admit that!
 2. If they say "from man" (which is what they actually believe)
 1. Then the crowd sitting right here, who all accept John was a prophet, will reject them and their authority!
 3. So these spiritual leaders come out of their huddle to say "We, do not know"
 1. How cowardly, and humiliating.
 2. And now that they are firmly stuck in the trap of their own making, Jesus issues the **closing blow**
9. The **Closing** blow (11:33) **Blank #5**
 1. Jesus isn't going to tell them anything. Not now anyway.
 1. A time will come when he will claim his messiahship, and his Divinity in chapter 14, which will directly lead to his death.
 2. But not now.

3. For now he is content to trap them in their own scheme.
 1. This exchange is very reminiscent of Proverbs 26:24-27
 - 2. READ Proverbs 26:24-27**
4. Jesus continues to reveal to the people the corruption of these leaders. he is going to begin to teach this crowd with a Parable about the wickedness of these religious leaders. Read that next week.

10. Application

1. This same Jesus, has absolute authority over our spiritual lives as well, regardless of how we respond to it.
 1. We can easily fall into the all too common mindset that our spiritual life is really up to us, and what we feel or think about any given situation.
 2. No one likes to be told what to do, especially in our spiritual lives.
 3. In our journey through Mark we have seen that this simply is not the case.
 1. We aren't the sole captain of our spiritual ship. Jesus desires to take full and complete control! For our good! That we might live the lives we have been created and redeemed to live.
2. So how do you relate to the clear teaching of God's word?
 1. Just a suggestion? A general good idea for some?
 1. Maybe we should ask ourselves the same question to Jesus?
 1. On who's authority does he speak?
 1. Mans?
 2. God's?
3. Maybe you have never responded to God's life giving invitation to become a follow of Jesus. You can do that today by putting your full faith in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus christ to pay the full penalty for our sins. It is by God's grace that we are saved, through faith"