



A Question of Authority?

“... the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?” (Matthew 21:23).

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“And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things” (Matthew 21:23-27).

In the temple:

- 1) Chief priests & elders came to Jesus, not to hear Him, but with ulterior motives. What is your motive for going to church or coming to Jesus? To people that came to Ezekiel, God said “And they come as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness” (Ezekiel 33:31).
- 2) They asked Jesus a question, but this was not a search for knowledge, but rather to trap/challenge His authority. Do your questions reflect a genuine search for truth and knowledge, or a cover up for other motives?
- 3) Jesus answered their question with a question. They avoided His question in a manner that exposed their folly. Truly, “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:22).
- 4) By their question, they challenged and rejected the authority of Jesus. You cannot challenge an authority on the one hand, and on the other obey and receive that authority. The same thing happens today when people reject & disobey God sent Ministers.

“And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things...” (Matthew 21:27).

- 5) Their opinions, perspectives, views, beliefs and practices ran contrary to the words preached by John and Jesus. And so are many today. Those rejections reflect their disconnection with the God of NOW. Their religious traditions has blinded their spiritual understanding.

Examples of subtle ways this manifest:

- 1) Matthew 13:54-58 And when he was come into his own country... they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? 57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. 58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.
- 2) Abuse of the 5 fold ministries, which is supposed to work in a complementary and collaborative manner without competition nor opposition. (Ephesians 4:11-13 + see Acts 13:1-3); as exemplified in Revelation 2:20 “Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols”.
- 3) 3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

God help us submit to authority (Rm 13:1-2).