

# SERMON NOTES

**Preacher:** Kevin Hardy

**Date:** April 13, 2025

**Text:** Mark 11:27-33

**Title:** The Demand of Discipleship

**Big Idea:** Jesus is the one who demands total authority over our lives.



## I. THE DEMAND OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS (vv. 27-28)

*“By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” (v. 28)*

- WHAT: By what authority are you doing these things?
- WHERE: Who gave you this authority to do them?

*“Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? 3 Isn’t this the carpenter?...” (Mark 6:2-3)*

## II. THE DEFENSE OF JESUS (vv. 29-30)

*“I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.”(vv. 29-30)*

- What was John all about?! POINTING TO JESUS!
- John’s message was about Jesus’ authority!

*“If Jesus’ ministry is from heaven, then he must be worshipped, not questioned.” – Dave Griffith-Jones*

## III. THE DILEMMA OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS (vv. 31-32)

And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But shall we say, ‘From man’?”—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. (vv. 31-32)

Whatever answer they give will trap them!

They can’t say that John’s baptism was from heaven because that would acknowledge Jesus’ authority as from heaven. They want to say that John’s baptism was of human origin because they were afraid of the crowds (who believed John was a prophet).

## IV. THE DEFEAT (v. 33)

*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.” (v. 33)*

Are you willing to give up everything if Jesus’ authority is from heaven?

Are you prepared to ignore people’s opinions if Jesus’ authority is from heaven?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.*

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### READ Mark 11:27-33

What does this passage reveal about the religious leaders' view of authority? Why do you think Jesus answers their question with a question? What does that tell us about His wisdom and His mission?

Why is it significant that Jesus links His authority to John the Baptist's ministry? What does their response, "We don't know," tell us about their priorities or fears?

How has this exchange revealed Jesus' authority?

What are some ways people today question or challenge Jesus' authority? How do we sometimes struggle with Jesus' authority in our own lives? What does it look like to submit to Jesus' authority in practical, everyday decisions?

How do fear of people's opinions or desire for control keep us from recognizing or submitting to God's authority?

Where in your life do you need to re-acknowledge Jesus' authority today? Is there a place where you've been hesitant to follow Jesus fully because of fear or pride? How can you grow in boldness to stand under and speak about the authority of Jesus in your relationships or workplace?

Are you willing to give up everything if Jesus' authority is from heaven? Are you prepared to ignore people's opinions if Jesus' authority is from heaven? Will you hold tightly to your own authority or some other lesser authority or will you submit to the authority of Jesus?

### PRAY