

# REBELLION OF THE HEART: CHALLENGING THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Mark 11:27-33

(ESV)

[27] 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, [28] and they said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?" [29] Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. [30] Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me." [31] And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' [32] But shall we say, 'From man'?"—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. [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."

## INTRODUCTION

God has authority over all of his creation.

**Matthew 28:18**—[18] "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Although rebellious autonomy has the appearance of power, true power comes from a willingness to submit to the authority of Christ.

## JESUS' AUTHORITY QUESTIONED

The religious class in the temple had already passed judgment on Jesus in their hearts.

**Mark 11:18**—[18] And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching.

**Mark 3:22**—[22] And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."

Anyone who approaches Jesus as a judge over him, will not find him.

Jesus is found, not when we define him according to our own judgment, but when we approach him according to who he says he is.

**Jeremiah 29:13**—[13] You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Notice that the leaders did not question whether or not Jesus had authority; their question was rather to the source of his authority.

The unwillingness to follow biblically established authority is the mark of false religion.

**Isaiah 40:8**

*The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

**THE HEARTS OF JESUS' OPPONENTS REVEALED**

**Proverbs 26:4**

*[4] Answer not a fool according to his folly,  
lest you be like him yourself.*

John the baptist was a polarizing figure. For the religious leader, he was a problem, a disruption on their plans to build a kingdom for themselves. But for the humble, he was the voice of the prophets that had been silent for four hundred years.

**Matthew 3:7–9**—*[7] But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? [8] Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. [9] And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.*

**Mark 6:20**—*[20] for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man...*

John, as a prophet, affirmed the divine origin of Jesus' authority.

**John 3:35–36**—*[35] The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. [36] Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

**John 1:29**—*“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

**1 Corinthians 6:19–20**—*You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

**Hebrews 3:15**—*[15] As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”*