

Discussion Questions: The Great Reveal Ruling King – Mark 11:27-33

Drawn from the March 30, 2025 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: As a teenager, did you have trouble with an authority figure in your life?

How would you describe your attitude toward authority today?

²⁷ They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. ²⁸ “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?”

²⁹ Jesus replied, “I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ³⁰ John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!”

³¹ They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ³² But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ ...” (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) ³³ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.” Mark 11:27-33

This passage references an earlier part of Mark

***1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”*

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River... ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Mark 1:1-8

1. Why do you think the chief priests and elders questioned Jesus' authority? (See Mark 11:12-26 for the events that preceded this encounter)

2. How would Jesus be in trouble either way he answered the question in verse 28? How did Jesus turn the tables on the religious leaders?

3. What does Jesus choice in Mark 11:29-33 to not directly answer the religious leaders' question teach us about his authority and discernment?

4. In Mark 1:1-8, John the Baptist spoke of the one “more powerful” than him who was coming. How does this passage connect to the kingship of Jesus?

5. What role did John the Baptist play in preparing the way for Jesus in Mark 1:1-8? How do the themes of authority and kingship in Mark 11 and Mark 1 give us a fuller picture of who Jesus is?

6. What might the Pharisees have done differently if they had sincerely wanted to know about Jesus' authority? What should a person do today to see if the authority of a religious leader is truly from God?

Group Prayer time: Thank Jesus for His authority. Ask Him to help you not resist his authority, but to listen and follow his instruction in every area of your life. Ask him to give you opportunities to share what Jesus has done for you with those who have not yet acknowledged and accepted his authority in their own lives.

