

## **“Finalizing His Authority”**

A Journey with Jesus—Part 20

Mark 11:27–12:12

Jesus enters Jerusalem as the Messiah

Jesus cleanses the temple, overturns tables

Jesus Finalized His Authority

Mark 3:

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” 4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

1 Peter 3:

15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Mark 11:

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.”

Jesus doesn’t respond with the answer we’d expect, right?

- We’d expect He would say: By what authority? I am the Son of God.
- Who gave you the authority? My father, my Abba, the one true God.
- John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!”
  - From heaven=The religious leaders accuse themselves of not believing.
  - Human origin: John the Baptist was a fraud: The people would turn on the religious leaders.

For Jesus, and for every believer today, evidence weighs infinitely more than any declarative statement.

Mark 2: Jesus Heals a Paralytic

5 “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 14:

61 Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” For Jesus, and for every believer today, evidence weighs infinitely more than any declarative statement. 62 “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”