

“By What Authority?”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 21:23-27.**

I. The Need For Divine Authority In Our Service To God.

- The Chief Priests And Elders Question Were Not Wrong In Asking... But A Misunderstanding.
 - Notice Jesus Didn't Say Anything About Being Legalist, Pharisaical, Or Wrong!
- Just What They Were Asking: Who Gave You The Permission Or Right To Act?
- **exousia**: *“Power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases; leave or permission.”*
Thayer, J. H. (1889).
- What Was This Question Referring To? **Matthew 21:12-17.**
- The Two Sources Of Authority Of John's Baptism (**vs. 25-27**):
 - **From Heaven**- Was John Acting With Permission And The Right To Act From God?
 - **From Men**- Was John Acting With Permission And The Right To Act From Men?
 - They Realized Their Dilemma And Refused To Answer, Because John Really Was A Prophet Acting Under God's Authority, And They Did Not Believe Him- **Luke 7:29-30.**
- From This Encounter, We Learn:
 1. Authority Is Needed.
 2. The Only Right Authority Is From God—Not Men.
 3. Why? When We Follow Man's Authority, We Are Not Following God's Authority.
 4. We Must Follow God's Direction And Instructions like Jesus- **John 12:48-50.**
 - **Matthew 28:18-20; Isaiah 8:20; 1 Peter 4:11**
 - **Philippians 2:5-11** (Name = Authority); **Colossians 3:17.**
 - God's Word Is Our Guide And Authority- **2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

II. By What Authority Do We Act On Today?

- The Creeds And Church Manuals Written By Men.
 - **1 Corinthians 1:10; Colossians 2:20-23.**
- The Traditions Formulated By Men.
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:15; Mark 7:7-13; Colossians 2:8.**
- What The Preacher Says...”My Preacher Says It's Alright.”.
 - **1 Peter 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:2-3.**
- The Overseers Of A Local Church.
 - **1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:17.**
- What The Majority Wants To Do.
 - **Exodus 32; 1 Samuel 8; 1 Samuel 15:15; 24.**
- The Individual's Choice Or “I Don't See Anything Wrong With It.”
 - **Judges 21:25; Ephesians 1:22-23.**
- The Bible Doesn't Say Not To Do This.
 - God's Silence Prohibits Additions- **Heb. 7:12-14; Leviticus 10:1-3; 2 Samuel 6:3-7.**
- What Others Are Doing In Religion. **1 Samuel 6:7-8; 2 Cor. 10:12; 1 Cor. 4:17.**
- “Look At The Good This Accomplishes.” **Romans 3:8.**