

Introduction:

Have you ever been confronted by an angry person who said, "What do you think you're doing?" In a sense, that's what happen to Jesus in this week's passage. To see how he responded check out Pastor Mark's sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²

**Scripture:**

Please read [Mark 11:27-33](#) in your Bible, or click [here](#).

"Everything Jesus did, he did with authority."

So What?

"In Mark 11:27-33, members of the Jewish Sanhedrin challenge Jesus because they think he overstepped his boundaries and acted without authority. It is the first of seven controversies between Jesus and the religious establishment (11:27-12:40). Jesus counters by answering their question with his own question, "*was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me*"(29-30). Rather than being rude or evasive, this was the normal teaching pattern done by a rabbi. By saying, "Answer me," Jesus was challenging the religious elite to stop straddling the middle line and to take a stand. The religious leaders are smart enough to recognize that Jesus just backed them into a corner (31-32) and they pleaded ignorance (33a). Since Jesus knew the religious leaders were confrontational, not curious, he did not answer their question (33b). *There are two lessons I take away from this passage.* One is to follow the example of Jesus in recognizing the difference between a question and a confrontation. Questions should be answered, but confrontations should be ignored. A second lesson is that Jesus has thoroughly demonstrated his authority and right to rule. In light of that, we should submit our lives to him."³

What Now?

1. The Sanhedrin did not want to acknowledge John's ministry because, if they did, then they would have to acknowledge Jesus, because John's whole purpose was to prepare the people for Jesus' coming. With the amount of media and social propoganda that goes on, this sort of attitude can sneak up on us. *Pray and examine yourself.* Are there areas in your life in which you hesitate to agree with what God's Word says because if you do, you will have to make changes? What did you discover? The good thing is that God is willing to forgive those who confess their sins ([1 John 1:9](#)). How do these verse relate to this problem: [Romans 12:2](#), [Col 3:1-3](#)? What steps should you take in light of these truths?
2. Pastor Mark pointed out that Jesus challenged the religious elite to stop straddling the middle line and to take a stand. That is what the word of God does to anyone who is faced with it. When confronted with God's Holy Word two things happen: 1) It reveals our real desires, motives, and allegiances, and 2) it forces us to make a choice: God's truth or the world's lies. In [John 17:17](#) Jesus prayed for believers saying, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." What steps are we taking to ensure that we are being sanctified by God's word? Do we read it, study it, and share it with others? There are many things that we must do in life, but what changes can we make so that we are able to have a regular and intentional study of God's word?
3. The Sanhedrin were the religious leaders of the community. It was there job to guard the word of God and to teach the people. In this passage we see that it was not happening that way. These religious leaders were confronted by the Son of God himself, failed to see it, and went out of their way to keep people from following him. In the same way our elders are responsible for preaching the Word, guarding the truth, and equipping the us ([2 Tim. 4:2-4](#), [Titus 1:7-9](#)). We are fortunate here at First Central to have a group of elders that are committed in this way. Will you help them to continue by praying for them? 1) Pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding 2) Pray for purity and victory over sin 3) Pray for their discernment. 4) Pray for their families.

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2015/09/20/who-said-you-could-do-this/>

² <http://www.firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>

³ The full text of this excerpt can be found in Pastor Mark's sermon notes.