

**“Who’s the Boss?”**

**August 3, 2014**

**Mark 11:27-33**

**CORE:** Wednesday morning, two days before Jesus would go to the Cross, Jesus walked into the Temple (*after cleansing it the day before*) and faced a fresh wave of conflict with the religious leaders. The issue? **AUTHORITY.**

## **1. CONFLICTING VIEWS OF “AUTHORITY”**

**“Authority” (*exousia*)- “freedom to act; having the right to do, say and decide”**

**FOR JESUS:** (It went to His heart) The confidence to say what His Father was saying and do what His Father was doing.

- Under His Father’s authority (*Matt. 8:9- “I too am a man under authority”*)
- Yielded; accountable to His Father (*John 6:38- “I have come to do the will of Him who sent Me”*)
- Seeking to please His Father (*“My Beloved Son...well-pleased”*)
- Used His authority to serve & give- loving, healing, delivering, saving

**FOR THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS:** (It went to their head) The privilege of being “in control.”

- Above authority. Refused to acknowledge Jesus’ authority.
- “People-pleasers”; desiring the approval of others rather than God’s.
- At the same time, they exploited people for their own gain.
- Divided among themselves; self-serving→ territorial (who has more?)
- **NOTE:** Had not always been this way.
  - Chief priests- 200 men who supervised the daily & Shabbat services; supervised the Temple treasury.
  - Scribes- Copied and taught the Scriptures (Torah)
  - Elders- Heads of families; consulted for decisions RE: the temple
  - Ezra 3- All 3 groups wept aloud & shouted for joy when the Temple was rebuilt by Zerubbabel

## **2. THE CONTRASTS**

- a. Jesus cleansed the temple of exploitation, confusion, lack of reverence or honor. Then He “filled” it the next day as He walked and taught (common rabbinical style). Luke 20- “He preached the Gospel”; Mark- the people were “*amazed*” (*explesso*)- *out of their minds in astonishment.*

***NOTE: God-in-the-flesh had come to HIS temple! No seat of honor?!? They simply wanted to evict Him! Wanted to “cleanse God from His temple!”***

- b. Jesus walked in absolute authority. Spoke with authority—75 times in the Gospels: “Truly I say to you...” *NOTE: Religious leaders either quoted someone else or refused to answer; fear & insecurity.***
- c. Religious leaders questioned Jesus to “trap Him.” Yet, in 3 years of conversations with Jesus—never came probing, seeking truth. *NOTE: They had made up their minds at the start of His ministry that Jesus was “of the devil” (Mark 3:30). From that time on they sought to discredit & destroy Him. They wanted to “trap” Jesus into saying He was “from God”—so they could accuse Him of blasphemy—when they were actually the blasphemers!***

### **3. THE INTERCHANGE**

- Jesus answered their question—with a question (*very common method of instruction*)**
- Jesus was very respectful—yet very direct (*i.e., “Answer Me!”*)**
- When they refused to answer Him, Jesus did the same—not out of spite. Simply, refusing to “cast pearls before swine” (Matthew 7:6).**

### **4. THE REAL ISSUE? REFUSAL TO RELINQUISH CONTROL**

**They were unwilling to acknowledge Jesus’ right to control their lives, His Temple and His people. (Why Jesus said, “My House...”)**

- Jesus’ reference to John the Baptist, whose message was “Repent. Change!!! New Kingdom coming. New King!” “Same laws. New power. Written on your hearts. Deeper obedience (*i.e., murder; adultery*)**
- One thing to acknowledge God’s existence—call Him “Creator.” Another to call Him “Lord. Master. One with absolute authority.”**

### **CLOSING THOUGHT-**

**“Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death - and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion. Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth - even those long ago dead and buried - will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11)**