

Pastor Matt Ross ■ Grace Bible Church ■ October 18, 2026

“Those who cannot be honest with themselves cannot be honest about Jesus. What Jesus does as God’s servant has meaning only because of who He is as God’s Son. The authority of Jesus is in fact the authority of God.”

James R. Edwards, Pillar New Testament Commentary: Mark

Central Truth: Jesus’ divine authority stands above all earthly authority and demands an honest response.

1. Authority Questioned (v. 27-28)

- Jesus’ authority threatens the religious leaders in their own sense of authority.

Application: *Think through the heart behind the questions you ask.*

2. Authority Challenged (v. 29-30)

- Jesus’ question exposes whether the religious leaders are willing to acknowledge God’s work.

Application: *Test all spiritual teaching and teachers by the Word of God.*

3. Authority Rejected (v. 31-33)

- The religious leaders embrace evasiveness to avoid an honest answer that comes at a cost.

Application: *Refuse to let the fear of people keep you from following God’s Truth.*

Mark 11:27-33

²⁷ And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, ²⁸ and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” ²⁹ Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ³⁰ Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.” ³¹ And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” ³² But shall we say, ‘From man’?” —they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. ³³ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One of the best ways to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!

1. Authority Questioned:

- Have you ever received advice or correction that you initially resisted but later recognized was right? What helped you become willing to accept it?

-How do you typically respond when God's Word challenges a belief, habit, or decision you have become comfortable with?

-What is the difference between sincerely questioning God to understand His truth and questioning Him because we don't want to submit?

2. Authority Challenged:

-Why is it sometimes difficult to accept biblical truth when it challenges our assumptions, preferences, or way of life?

-How can we evaluate what a pastor, Christian author, or other spiritual leader teaches without becoming either gullible or overly critical?

3. Authority Rejected:

-In what situations can you be most tempted to seek people's approval rather than God's approval? Where does fear of rejection, conflict, criticism keep you from faithfully following Jesus?

-How can we distinguish between being gracious and considerate towards others and allowing a fear of people to keep us from obeying God?