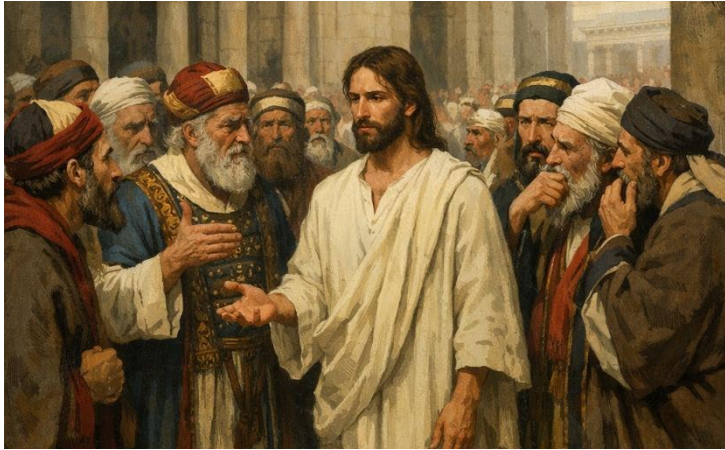


# Easter Series: The Last Week of Jesus. Day 3 The Prophet Comes to His Nation

## Mark 11:27-33



*Mark 11:27-33 Then 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 began*

*saying to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?" 29 And Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question, and you answer Me, and then I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30 Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me." 31 And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Then why did you not believe him?' 32 But if we say, 'From men?'"—they were afraid of the crowd, for everyone was regarding John to have been a real prophet. 33 And answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."*

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**1) The Coming Prophet Brings with Him Authority.** As Jesus returns to the Temple on the third day of the week, the religious rulers confront Him and question His authority for saying and doing the things He has done. Their problem is that Jesus looks like, speaks like, and does the works of a prophet of God. In their minds, if Jesus is a prophet from God, then they have a big problem, but if He is not, then they will eagerly kill Him. Unlike all the other prophets before Him, Jesus possesses a unique

authority of His own. On one hand, as God, Jesus speaks and acts by His own divine and eternal authority. On the other hand, as a man, Jesus speaks and acts the direct will of the Father who sent Him. The real issue is not about Jesus's authority, it is about their unwillingness to obey and follow Him as the Lord.

**2) The Coming Prophet Brings with Him Wisdom.** Jesus's response to the question of authority is one of wisdom. Jesus knows exactly what to say to challenge the skeptics, strengthen the faithful, and convince the undecided all with the same words. Jesus's response tells the religious rulers that they already possess the answer to their question. Just as John baptized the people as a prophet of God, so also is Jesus the One foretold and the messenger of the New Covenant. This is the same in our day in that humanity has everything they need to know about Jesus to receive Him, believe Him, and follow Him.

**3) The Coming Prophet Brings with Him Judgement.** Because the religious rulers plead ignorance in response to Jesus's challenge, then Jesus does not give them what they want. Just like the prophets of old, Jesus now turns from a messenger of good news to the spokesman of judgement upon their unbelief. Jesus is done reasoning with them and now turns to speak a word of judgement upon them. He will go on to tell them a parable in which they discover that God will destroy them and take the blessing of hope found in the Old Covenant and make a new promise to a new people. Jesus remains for all of humanity the spokesman of God declaring the good news of salvation through faith in Him. However, a point will come when unbelief is no longer met with reason but only judgement for those who refuse to follow Jesus.