

The Last Week Of Jesus' Life - - By What Authority

Sunday PM 04/14/19

Introduction:

Matthew 21.23-37; Mark 11.27-33; Luke 20.1-8 We see a lot of different religious practices today. Some pray to Mary as the Mother of God, some observe the Sabbath Day and not Sunday, some use mechanical instruments of music, and the list goes on. By what authority are they doing these things?

I. The Essential Question of Authority, v. 23

A. Authority means the power, the ability to do, the right to do or command something.

1. We recognize the need for authority in our world; police, governments, parents etc. *Matthew 8.5-9*
2. It is amazing that it took them 3 years to ask this question. It is the essential question that should be first on our list.

B. Jesus responded with two questions, v. 25

1. Religious practices either come from God or man.
2. If from God, we are obligated to obey Him.
 - a. If from man, there is no obligation, *Mark 11.31*
 - b. Man's traditions can not replace God's commands.

II. How Do We Know If A Practice Comes From Heaven Or From Man?

A. From God

1. *Hebrews 1.1-2* in times past God revealed His word through Moses and the prophets.
 - a. This is what we call the Old Testament.
 - b. There are many practices we find in the Old Testament: animal sacrifices, Sabbath Day, etc.
2. This law was fulfilled and taken out of the way when Jesus died on the cross, *Hebrews 10.9-10; Colossians 2.14-16*
3. Now we have the Son of God who speaks to us, *Ephesians 1.20-23*
 - a. He sent the Holy Spirit to reveal the will of God, *John 14.26; 16.13*
 - b. The Apostles were the "earthen vessels" preaching the word of God, *2 Corinthians 4.5-7*
4. We have the writings of the inspired men that recorded the word of God, *2 Timothy 3.16-17; Ephesians 3.3-5*
 - a. If it is from God, we will be able to find authority in the New Testament.
 - b. The authority will be either specific or generic but it will be there.

B. If it is not from God then it must be from man

1. Could be from one's parents, *Galatians 1.14*
 - a. This kind of authority is not good enough, *Matthew 10.37*

- b. Our parents can not take the place of God's word.
- 2. Could be one of conscience, *Proverbs 16.25; Acts 23.1*
 - a. Our conscience can be wrong, most of us have been wrong before.
 - b. Our conscience must be in harmony with God's word.
- 3. Could be from human wisdom, *1 Corinthians 1.21; 3.19*
 - a. Remember the false religions of Mars Hill, we see today in humanism, evolution, etc.
 - b. A lot of "smart" people are wrong when it comes to God's word.
- 4. Could be preachers, *1 Peter 4.11; Galatians 1.9*
 - a. Some preachers are dynamic, persuasive, speakers.
 - b. They are not content to remain in the Gospel, *Galatians 1.6-8*
- 5. Could be human creeds, *Revelation 22.18-19*
 - a. Many religious groups ask their people to accept their doctrine over the Bible.
- 6. We may not know where it came from but if we can not find it in the Bible, it came from man.

C. Why what authority? See chart on various practices.

III. Verse 27 Showed Their Attitude

- A. They were not really interested, only feigned interest**
- B. There is a difference between a religion of convenience and conviction.**

Conclusion:

Are we interested in God's authority? Are we doing what God said to do? If so we will have book, chapter, and verse and have the answer to the question, "By what authority?"