

“by what authority”

Luke 20:1-19

“by what authority”

Luke 20:1-2

1 One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. **2** “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”

“by what authority”

“They had asked this of John the Baptist and of Jesus early in His ministry. Here the reference is to the clearing of the temple, which not only defied the authority of the Jewish leaders but also hurt their monetary profits. The leaders may also have been looking for a way to discredit Jesus in the eyes of the people or raise suspicion of Him as a threat to the authority of Rome.”

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“by what authority”

Luke 20:3-4

3 He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me: **4** John’s baptism — was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

“by what authority”

**“By replying with a question,
Jesus put a burden on His
opponents...”**

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“by what authority”

Luke 20:5-7

5 They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ **6** But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.” **7** So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.”

“by what authority”

“[The religious leaders were left with] only two alternatives: The work of John was either divinely inspired or humanly devised. By refusing to answer, they placed themselves in an awkward position.”

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Luke 20:8

8 Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

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**“Discussion with such biased
and hostile people was
worthless, so Jesus ended the
conversation.”**

“by what authority”

Luke 20:9-16

9 He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. **10** At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

11 He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. **12** He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. **13** “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’”

14 “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ **15** So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. “What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? **16** He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!”

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“The characters in this story are easily identified. Even the religious leaders understood it. The owner of the vineyard is God, the vineyard is Israel; the tenants are the religious leaders; the servants are the prophets and priests God sent to Israel; the son is the Messiah, Jesus; and the others are the Gentiles. Jesus’ parable indirectly answered the religious leaders’ question about His authority; it also showed them that He knew about their plan to kill Him.”

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Luke 20:17-19

17 Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: “ ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? **18** Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

19 The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

“by what authority”

Psalm 118:22-23

22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; **23** the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

“by what authority”

“Quoting Psalm 118:22, Jesus showed the unbelieving leaders that even their rejection of the Messiah had been prophesized in Scripture. Ignoring the capstone, or cornerstone, was dangerous. A person could be tripped or crushed (judged and punished). Jesus’ comments were veiled, but the religious leaders had no trouble interpreting them. They immediately wanted to arrest Jesus.”

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Applications

- **Jesus is Lord, He has the right to command us.**
- **Being an American gives us no assurance of salvation.**
- **Failure to follow Jesus will result in eternal damnation.**

Final Thoughts

**“God offers a choice of
“brokenesses.” Those who cast
themselves on Jesus, submitting
their wills and all that they are to
Him, will be broken of arrogance,
hard-heartedness, and self-
centeredness. It is not a pleasant
process, but an absolutely
necessary one.”**

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Final Thoughts

“...this passage warns us about not presuming on God’s promise. In effect, the tenants thought the the vineyard was theirs forever but they were mistaken. God came to vineyard looking for produce, and all He got was hostility and grief. Presuming on God brings judgement. Those who are in the vineyard must build up the body and honor God with the fruit He seeks.”

Darrell Bock

Final Thoughts

Matthew 7:17-20

17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Final Thoughts

Galatians 5:19-23

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.