

Lebanon Valley church of Christ

Is it from Heaven or from Men?

Mat. 21:23-27

Lesson Text

- (Mat 21:23) And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"
- (Mat 21:24) Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things.
- (Mat 21:25) The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'
- (Mat 21:26) But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."
- (Mat 21:27) So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

From Heaven

- **It Must Come From Jesus**
- **Through His Apostles**
- **Only From His Apostles**

From Jesus

- **Given All Authority (Mat. 28:18)**
 - In Heaven and on earth
- **Jesus is Judge (Joh. 5:22-23)**
- **All things under His feet (Eph. 1:22-23)**
- **Head over All things**

Through the Apostles

- Jesus delegated His authority to His Apostles (Joh. 13:20)
- They are His Ambassadors (2Co. 5:20)
- Reliability through the Holy Spirit (Act. 2:42; 1Co. 14:37)
- No apostles today!

Only From the Apostles

- **Given the Whole Counsel of God (Act. 20:27)**
- **All Things Pertaining to Life & Godliness (2Pe. 1:3)**
- **The Faith Revealed**
- **Once Delivered for All (Jude 3)**
- **No new revelations today!**

From Man

- **If based solely upon:**
 - **What the Majority Thinks**
 - **What Parents Taught**
 - **What a Preacher/Teacher Tell Us**
 - **Creeds and Traditions of Men**
 - **What Your Conscience Tells You**
 - **Human Wisdom**
 - **Feelings**
 - **The Old Testament**

Conclusion

- **Only that which is from Heaven is relevant before God!**
- **Doctrine is important! (cf. Mat. 23ff)**
- **Be diligent in Bible Study and Prayer!**
 - **Never take someone else's word on religious matters.**
 - **Don't be intimidated by position or titles.**
 - **Be observant of "pride" both in yourself and in leadership.**
 - **Prov. 11:2** When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.
 - **Prov. 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- **Over-zealousness, however well intentioned, leads to error.**
- **False Teachers Abound in this world.**
 - **Well spoken**
 - **Attractive in some way**
 - **DON'T FALL FOR IT!**
- **ASK THE QUESTION: IS THIS FROM HEAVEN OR MEN?**