

“The Authority of Jesus”

Luke 20:1-8

I. God’s authority will often face oppositions in a fallen world.

Luke 20:1 *“On one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders confronted Him”*

A. The strongest opposition came from those who has religious authority - *Luke 9:22*.

1. They rejected the authority of the messenger. (Moses, prophets, Jesus)

B. Why would religious people reject the Lord? Two reasons: Contempt, Jealousy, and Fear

1. **Contempt for Jesus** – _____
2. **Jealousy of Jesus** - _____
3. **Fear of Jesus** – _____ (*John 11:47-50*)

C. Application: Expect opposition from people as you do the will of God. - *Jn 15:20*

II. He who has the authority has power and the right.

Luke 20:2 *“and they spoke, saying to Him, “Tell us by what authority You are doing these things, or who is the one who gave You this authority?”*

A. What is AUTHORITY? The NT word is *exousia*, meaning rightful, actual and unimpeded power to act, or to possess, control, use or dispose of, something or somebody. It a power that is in some sense lawful.

B. The first question dealt with the kind of authority Jesus used.

C. The second question dealt with who was backing Him.

D. Application: Recognize this day the authority of Jesus’ teaching over your life? -*Mt 28:18-20*

III. All lawful authority is given by God.

A. Jesus redirects the question to the authority of John.

Luke 20:3 *“Jesus answered and said to them, “I will also ask you a question, and you tell Me: 4 “Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?”*

B. Our Lord’s question was an answer to the question of His opponents.

C. Application: Recognize the authority of those whom God has given it to.

1. Human institutions - 1 Peter 2:13–14
2. Spiritual leaders - Hebrews 13:17

IV. All Lawful authority must be submitted to. They knew it too.

A. His opponents were unwilling to openly confess John’s authority: *Luke 20:5* “They reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’”

B. They refused to openly deny John as a prophet - *Luke 20:6* “But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.”

C. They lied claiming ignorance to protect their credibility - *Luke 20:7* “So they answered that they did not know where it came from.”

D. Application: Submit to the authorities God has placed over us?

V. God does not waste Truth on pretenders. –

Luke 20:8 *“And Jesus said to them, “Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”*

A. Those that bury the knowledge they have, are justly denied further knowledge.

B. The willingly ignorant have no claim on further knowledge. *Matthew 7:6*

C. Application: Hang on to the truth and live it. - *Prov 3:3-4*

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