

Mark 11:27-33 — "The Unstoppable Authority of Jesus Christ"

One Almighty is more than all mighties" — William Gurnall

This was a masterpiece in Rhetoric and Debate. Why did Jesus refer back to John? He did it deliberately to bring home to his enemies the reason of their hatred for him. They had at first, like the rest of the nation, been stirred by that mighty revival which had swept over the land in the days of John. For a while they were impressed with Jesus. But in their pride, they rebelled against his demand for repentance and had disdained to take their places among the multitude that were baptized by him in the Jordan, CONFESSING THEIR SINS. They had rejected conviction, closed their eyes to light, and fought against the truth. If they had listened to John the baptist, they would have listened to Jesus also. So, when Jesus spoke of the baptism of John here, he probed to the ROOT OF THEIR UNBELIEF. (David Smith)

THESIS — I want to preach on Your Savior's *unstoppable authority!*

I. YOUR SAVIOR'S AUTHORITY ATTACKED (27-28)

A. The context

The Chief priests, scribes, and elders are the 3 groups that made up the Sanhedrin -- the ruling council of Israel which was allowed to regulate local affairs as well as religious responsibilities. (David France).

Note ironically how Jesus is in the Temple proclaiming "GOOD NEWS" to the crowds while the Jerusalem leadership interrupts him with hostile intentions to trap & to destroy him.

He has GOOD NEWS

They have MURDEROUS MOTIVES

B. The courts

C. The question

D. The confrontation

II. YOUR SAVIOR’S AUTHORITY **VINDICATED** (29-33)

A. Jesus’ Counter-Question

B. The Scribes’ Humiliation

IF they claimed that John was NOT a true prophet (from God/ from heaven), then the Jewish leadership would have been liable to the penalty for false prophesy (=Stoning) (Deut 13.1-11).

AND, if they claimed that John was NOT a true prophet, the Jewish leadership would be guilty of false witness and liable to that punishment the falsely accused would have received (=Stoning)

The implications of Christ’s unstoppable authority:

1. Maintain allegiance to Him (*Cling*)
2. Ardent love for Him (*love*)
3. Willing obedience to Him (*obey*)
4. Settled Trust in Him (*trust*)
5. Holy Fear of Him (*fear*)

How Jesus’ almighty authority gives tender comfort to you:

1. All earthly authorities are under his control
2. All human laws do not take God by surprise
3. All injustice will be judged by Christ the King
4. All global events serve to glorify God

5. All circumstances should lead us to faith, not fear.

I GREET THEE WHO MY SURE REDEEMER ART

1 I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

2 Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
reigning omnipotent in ev'ry place:
so come, O King, and our whole being sway;
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

3 Thou art the Life, by which alone we live,
and all our substance and our strength receive;
O comfort us in death's approaching hour,
strong-hearted then to face it by thy pow'r.

4 Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness:
make us to taste the sweet grace found in thee
and ever stay in thy sweet unity.

5 Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
O grant to us such stronger hope and sure
that we can boldly conquer and endure.

BEHOLD OUR GOD

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come, let us adore Him
Behold our King—nothing can compare
Come, let us adore Him