

**Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"**  
**"By What Authority?"**  
**Luke 20:1-8**  
**Study-81**

**Authority** - "freedom, and liberty to act, to exercise force, to determine, to decide"

**The encounter of our passage takes place on Tuesday. Which is referred to as "The Day of Controversy"**

**"The Challenging of Jesus' Authority" Recorded in three Gospels: Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8**

**Luke 20 Tuesday In The Temple With Six Skirmishes:**

**1. Verses 1-8 A Question Of Jesus' Authority:**

**The Thought Of Our Passage:** "The Divine Authority Of Jesus Christ Is Revealed Through His Teaching, His Miraculous Works, And The Fulfilment Of Scripture"

- 1. Verse 1 Jesus' Controversial Act**
- 2. Verse 2 Religious Criticism Of Jesus**
- 3. Verses 3-8 Jesus' Authoritative Pronouncement**

**1. Verse 1 Jesus' Controversial Act:**

**Luke 20:1 On one of the days Context** - What days is Luke referring to? (*Tuesday of the Passion Week*) "**Palm Sunday/Triumphal Entry**" Jesus then the next day **Monday** "**Cleansed The Temple**" **Luke 19:47-48**

**while He was teaching the people in the temple** The temple has been cleansed so now the Word can be received.

**Pictures of The Temple Court - "The Porch of Solomon"** It was an area that contained 162 columns that were 30 feet high, and 6 feet thick.

**Mark 11:27 And as He was walking in the temple, (Walking and teaching)**

**and preaching the gospel**, The gospel is "*The Good News*" Which is the Kingdom of God.

**the chief priests and the scribes with the elders** These religious leaders made up what was called "**The Sanhedrin**" This would be the equivalent to the "**American Senate**" for the Jews.

**the chief priests** – were priests that rank the highest among their fellow priests.

**and the scribes-** were those that made copies of the Scriptures. They became so familiar with the Scriptures they became known as experts of the law, lawyers.

**with the elders** – were the mature Jewish men of the synagogues, of various Jewish families that were looked to as spiritual leaders.

**confronted Him,** This is the Passover, which was a holy day in remembrance of God delivering His people out of the bondage of Egypt.  
**Exodus 12:5-6**

Jesus is now starting to undergo the **examination for four days, from Tuesday to Friday** when He will then be slaughtered for the sins of the world.

**John 1:29**

## **2. Verse 2 Religious Criticism Of Jesus:**

**Luke 20:2 and they spoke, saying to Him,** they had a right to investigate all religious teaching. **They ask Jesus 2 questions:**

**Question #1 What Are Your Credentials? "Tell us by what authority You are doing these things, "Tell us by what authority word Authority - "freedom, and liberty to act, to exercise force, to determine, to decide" Matthew 28:18**

**doing these things,** refer to both Jesus' words and His actions. They are speaking about the Triumphal Entry, cleansing of the temple, the teaching and preaching, the healing that Jesus is doing. *Jesus an unlicensed teacher!*  
***Not of priestly lineage or a Levitical background!***

**Answer – Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior; Jesus had His triumphal entry fulfilling Scripture (Declaring Himself God/Savior) Came into the temple suddenly fulfilling Scripture! Healed the sick!**

**These men wanted to defend themselves. Jesus is trying to save them!**

**Question #2 Is Your Authority Divine Or Human? or who is the one who gave You this authority?"** *literally "What kind of authority is it? divine or human?"*

Jesus is now on the hot seat to examine Him for what He really is. At the same time Jesus examines them and shows who they really are too.

## Matthew 7:28-29

### **3. Verses 3-8 Jesus' Authoritative Pronouncement:**

**Luke 20:3 Jesus answered and said to them,** the brilliance and wisdom of God shines through Jesus in how He responds to His attackers!

**"I will also ask you a question, and you tell Me:** Jesus resorts to a counter question which was one of the rabbi's techniques of their day, when they would debate.

**Their response revealed their ignorance, hatred, and unbelief of their hearts.**

**Luke 20:4 "Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?"  
Was John's Baptism Derived From The Divine Or Human?**

**baptism of John** Jesus goes back to the forerunner, the herald that fulfilled Scripture in announcing Jesus. **It's a package deal. You can't take John without Jesus. And you can't throw away Jesus without throwing away John.**

## Luke 7:28-30

**Why does Jesus take us back to John?**

1. Because John was God's witness that He sent to His people.
2. **God does not teach or reveal to us new truths if we reject the old.**

**John 7:17 "Was the baptism of John** from heaven, **the term** heaven **was a Jewish Euphemism for "God"** Was John's baptism, (preaching, teaching) from God?

**or from men?** Was John's authority divine or was it **human?**

**Verses 5-7 The Reader Eavesdrops On The Religious Leaders: Luke 20:5 They reasoned among themselves,** trying to reason by their limited human mind

**"If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why did you not believe him?'**

They are not reasoning over what is true and what is right but what is safe? They knew that John was of God but chose not to believe. **John's message was the coming messiah, why didn't the religious believe in Jesus? John 1:29**

**'Why did you not believe him?'**

**Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.**

**Luke 20:6 "But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us to death, Deuteronomy 13:1-11**

**for they are convinced that John was a prophet." Luke 7:26-27**

**Luke 20:7 So they answered that they did not know where it came from.**

K.J.V. *"We cannot tell."* It would be more accurate to say, **"We will not tell!"**

**John 3:18-21**

People today give all sorts of excuses for not receiving and acting on the truth.

**John 8:12-15**

**The religious even attempted to cover up Jesus' resurrection – Matthew 28:12-14**

**Luke 20:8 "Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things."**

**Jesus Will Not Speak To Men Regarding His Authority Who Are Unwilling To Answer A Plain Question To Which They Know The Answer!**

**Romans 11:22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God;**

### **Application:**

1. The Divine Authority Of Jesus Christ Is Revealed Through His Teaching, His Miraculous Works, And The Fulfilment Of Scripture.
2. John The Baptist Was The Light That Was To Point To Jesus Christ. The Great Principle That God Does Not Teach Or Reveal To Us New Truths If We Reject The Old.
3. In Moral And Spiritual Matters, The Intellect Is Controlled By The Heart And Blinded By Deliberate Wicked Rejection Of Truth.