

The Authority of Jesus – Luke 20:1-8

I. Men Question Jesus' authority (1-2)

- a. Jesus was teaching and preaching in the Temple (1)
 - 1. Teaching the people (Word)
 - 2. Preaching the gospel (good news)
- b. Religious Rulers question His authority to teach (2)
 - 1. They were the authority in the Temple
 - 2. They asked who gave Him authority
- c. Men still question Jesus' authority
 - 1. Jesus speaks to us daily
 - i. Through Word
 - ii. Through Conscience
 - 2. We often reject His authority and do it our way
 - 3. We refuse instruction and are disciplined

II. Men Have No Basis To Judge True Authority (3-7)

- a. Jesus questions the questioners (3-4)
 - 1. Jesus asks them to recognize the origin of John's authority
 - 2. Did John have the authority to do what he did?
- b. The Leaders Demonstrated their inability to recognize authority (5-7)
 - 1. They recognized authority based on the result
 - i. If they said John was from God, Jesus would have authority based on John's preaching.
 - ii. If they said John was from man, they feared the people's reaction.
 - iii. Instead of truth, they recognized authority on the basis of their own benefit or detriment.
 - 2. They could not determine authority
 - i. Instead of making a determination, they refused because they would not benefit either way.
- c. We often choose to abide by authority only when it is beneficial

III. Jesus Refuses to Allow them to Judge His authority (8)

- a. Since they had no basis, He would not allow them the right
 - 1. He said, I will not tell you where my authority comes from.