

“By what authority...?”

Matt. 21:23-46

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- **An entrapping question and an equivocating answer – [Matt. 21:23-27](#)**
 - **“By what authority? Who gave you this authority?”** The question is a trap
 - **“From where did the authority for the baptism of John come?”** Jesus turned it around on them
 - **“We don’t know.”**

“By what authority...?”

- **Jesus points out their sinfulness and hypocrisy – Matt. 21:28-44**
 - **Parable of the Two Sons, v.28-31**
 - **Gentiles=first son, Jews=second son**
 - **Parable of the Tenants, v.33-41**
 - **Jews continually killed the prophets and messengers God sent, foreshadowing Jesus’ own death**
 - **The kingdom to be taken from the Jews and given to those who obey, v.42-46**

“By what authority...?”

- Jesus never directly answers the question, yet He does answer:
 - V.31, “**the will of the Father**”
 - v.32, “**the way of righteousness**”
 - V.42, “**Have you never read...?”**
 - V.43, “**...given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.”**
 - V.44, “**Whoever falls on this stone will be broken...”**
- Lessons: Hypocrisy, sinfulness; pay attention to God’s Word!