

Context

1] Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time knowing He was going to be put to death (18:31ff)

2] He made a 'splash'

a) a triumphal entry on a colt being acclaimed as King by the people (19:38)

b) he entered the temple and drove out the 'profiteers' (19:45,46)

??? Why did Jesus not just answer the delegation of leaders straight???

Situation (1)

1] One day

Nb during final week of His life – on Tuesday or Wednesday

2] teaching people in the Temple

I.e. the crowds He had entered Jerusalem with ++

3] and preaching the Gospel 'lit 'good newsing'

Nb Good news – of the kingdom of God (4:43; 8:1; 16:16) – the unchallenged rule of God

Note the effect of this lump of chemical, coronavirus demonstrates clearly our need to hear the Good News – God is in complete charge!!

God teaches those willing to listen to Him

I listen to Jesus

The approach (2)

1] the Chief priest, the scribes, and the elders

I.e. a gaggle of former High priests, the Lawyers - experts in 1st 5 books of Bible. Elders = heads of Tribes

Nb very weighty delegation

cf seeking for a way to destroy (erase?) Jesus (19:47)

2] these things you do

I.e. the coming into Jerusalem triumphal entry as a King (19:35ff); and the clearing of the Temple (19:45)

3] 'Tell us...'

a) 'by what authority do you do these things ...'

cf Pilate asking Jesus 'Are you King of the Jews' (23:3)

nb Cheek – He was the divine Word of God made flesh (Jn 1:1)

or b) who gave you this authority

cf All authority in Heaven and earth is given to me (Matt 28:89)

JESUS has been given 'all authority'

(4] The way God has chosen to present to us, it is possible not to see Him

Nb No form or majesty that we should look at him (Is 53:2b)

Not noticeable – no aura (Jn 7:10)

BUT - When he spoke ----- the Word of God (Jn 7:14-16; Jn 1:1ff))

Jesus reply (3,4)

1] with a question

Cf (5:21 – 22-24; 6:2 – 3-5; 11:15 – 17-22)

God meets our unbelief (sin) by giving us further questions

GRACE God is willing to speak to us even if we are set in unbelief

2] John's baptism...

a) repentance of forgiveness of sin (3:3)

b) Anticipating Messiah – he who would baptise, not with water but with fire (3:16)

3] ...where was it from...

a) Heaven?

I.e. Why did you not believe him (and the crowds on Palm Sunday – the King is here 19:38)

Cf There was a man sent by God (Jn 1:6)

b) Man?

I.e. a prophet claiming to speak from God, was false, a liar.

Their reaction (5,6)

1] They discussed it with one another

I.e. they were corporate – a delegation

2] The dilemma

a) 'from Heaven'? -- 'why did you not believe him?'

cf The Lord is coming (19:38)

i.e. why did you too not welcome me as king as I entered Jerusalem?

b) from man - 'people will stone us to death for they are convinced John was a prophet'

i.e. from man = he is a fraud claiming to have been sent by God

The result (7,8)

1] The delegation – 'answered that they did not know where it came from'

I.e. they were 'agnostic' = Greek without knowledge (Latin ignoramus!)

Answer Jesus' question – was John the Baptist right

2] Jesus – 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things'

I.e. I will not reveal myself to you

God will not answer those with a closed mind

Conclusion

1] Do you really want Jesus to speak to you / address your questions?

2] Don't expect an answer from Jesus - unless you are willing to obey Him

MP *If you want to know of God, submit to the Word of God*

KV *By what authority do you do these things or who is it that gave you this authority? (2)*

Summary

In the Temple, Jesus was questioned about his authority. (1,2)

He replied asking where John the Baptist's authority came from – Heaven or man (3,4)

They reasoned - If 'Heaven' - why not believe him? If 'man' – they feared stoning (5,6)

They said they didn't know so Jesus didn't answer them (7,8)