



### ***“First, Decide”***

Mark 11:27-33 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon  
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***Introduction*** – *After Jesus cleansed the Temple in Jerusalem, the Jewish Sanhedrin confronts Him about His right to do such audacious things.*

#### ***I. The Question of Jesus’ Authority.***

- A. Since the beginning of His ministry Jesus has been exercising bold authority.
- B. Members of the Sanhedrin confront Jesus to ask where He gets the authority to do what He is doing.
- C. The Sanhedrin was the ruling body in Israel comprised of 71 members from four different influential groups.
  - 1. The Pharisees
  - 2. The Chief Priests
  - 3. The Scribes
  - 4. The Elders
- D. The Sanhedrin sent delegates to ask Jesus two questions about His authority: “What?” and “Who?”
- E. Jesus answers their question with a question about where they thought John the Baptist got his authority, from God, or from men?
- F. Jesus’ question created a huge dilemma for the Sanhedrin.

#### ***II. The Quagmire of the Sanhedrin’s Indecision.***

- A. The Sanhedrin remain indecisive and agnostic about the source of John’s authority.
- B. Their unwillingness to commit, moves Jesus to be unwilling to commit any more information to them about Himself.

#### ***III. The Qualification For Knowing God’s Will.***

- A. Our failure to accept the evidence about Jesus, leaves us in the dark about Jesus.
- B. Our intimacy with God is limited only by the extent of our willingness to surrender to Jesus’ authority.
- C. There is plenty of evidence to confirm that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.
- D. There is no neutrality with Jesus. We must first decide about Him, and then God will give us more insight.

#### ***Conclusion***