



*Who Gave You
Permission?*

Luke 20:1-8

Luke 20:1 One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up 2 and said to him, "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority." 3 He answered them, "I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, 4 was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?" 5 And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' 6 But if we say, 'From man,' all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet." 7 So they answered that they did not know where it came from. 8 And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things." (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

This group of people who ask Jesus about His authority come with an ulterior motive of catching Jesus in His words. They are looking for reasons to accuse Him of false teaching, heresy, and blasphemy. He had been teaching openly and demonstrating His authority over the elements, disease, and sin. Jesus gave multiple displays of His greatness and taught as never a man had ever spoken. At the end of His earthly ministry Jesus declared: *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...”* (Matt. 28:18)

I. It is okay to ask God questions.

It is okay to ask God questions. As a matter of fact, I get a sense that He delights in people who ask Him wisdom and knowledge. James 1:5-6 *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”*

II. God may not answer every question to your liking.

He consistently confronted them and the error of their ways. But, today...This time... He was finished with them. It was enough. And, so when we ask a question we best be ready to receive the voice of truth. When you or I come to God with a question let us not presuppose upon Him the answer we think we deserve. Truly, our Father knows best!

III. God's questions to us are usually more difficult than our questions to Him..

They wanted to snag Jesus and boy howdy did He ever turn the tables on them. He was a dangerous man for them for sure!

In teaching a well placed question to the students will often accomplish so much more than a pat answer. And, Jesus, the Master Teacher, skillfully poses an interrogative to these naysayers. It was classical rabbinical style. And, in so asking He unmasked their hypocrisy.

III. God's questions to us are usually more difficult than our questions to Him..

Luke 22:66 When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, 67 "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, 68 and if I ask you, you will not answer. 69 But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." 70 So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." 71 Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

**When you come to God
with a question be satisfied
with His answer.**

APPLICATION

- 1. I do well to recognize and confess God's sovereign reign over all creation and me.**
- 2. When I come to God with a question I should come reverently and ready to receive His answer.**
- 3. I should be grateful for situations that arise that cause me to wrestle with unanswered questions for which I hope to continue seeking God's mind.**