



**Can't Be Outsmarted**





# **Immediate Literary and Historical Context (Chapter 11):**



## **Immediate Literary and Historical Context (Chapter 11):**

- **Jesus entered Jerusalem – Headed to the cross**



## Immediate Literary and Historical Context (Chapter 11):

- Jesus entered Jerusalem – Headed to the cross
- **Cleaned out the temple – Rebuke of religious leaders**



## Immediate Literary and Historical Context (Chapter 11):

- Jesus entered Jerusalem – Headed to the cross
- Cleaned out the temple – Rebuke of religious leaders
- **Cursed the fig tree – “Have faith in God.”**



## Immediate Literary and Historical Context (Chapter 11):

- Jesus entered Jerusalem – Headed to the cross
- Cleaned out the temple – Rebuke of religious leaders
- Cursed the fig tree – “Have faith in God.”
- **Our being forgiven gets expressed in forgiving others**



In an attempt to trap Jesus, the religious leaders question him but end up discovering they cannot outsmart him. He is the real deal. His authority comes from the Almighty God. Jesus is THE guy that must be listened to if we are to enjoy eternal life.



## Mark 11:27-33

<sup>27</sup> And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, <sup>28</sup> and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup> Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.” <sup>31</sup> And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say,





## Mark 11:27-33

‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>32</sup> But shall we say, ‘From man?’ — they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. <sup>33</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”



**The religious leaders attempt to trap Jesus by asking a question...**



# THE QUESTION



## THE QUESTION

**“Who put you in charge?”**



## Mark 11:27-28

<sup>27</sup> And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, <sup>28</sup> and they said to him, “**By what authority** are you doing these things, or **who gave you this authority** to do them?”



**Religious leaders hope Jesus answers,**



Religious leaders hope Jesus answers, **“God put me in charge.”**



Religious leaders hope Jesus answers, “God put me in charge.”

**Religious leaders would then accuse Jesus of blasphemy.**





Religious leaders hope Jesus answers, “God put me in charge.”

Religious leaders would then accuse Jesus of blasphemy.

**Religious leaders would then...**



**Jesus answers with a question...**



THE QUESTION

**THE REPLY**



# THE REPLY



## THE REPLY

**“Will you guys tell me, John the Baptist’s preaching of repentance, baptism, declaring the Messiah has come and pointing to me, was he from God or just making it up?”**



## Mark 11:27-30

<sup>27</sup> And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, <sup>28</sup> and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup> **Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?** Answer me.”



THE QUESTION

THE REPLY

**THE PREDICAMENT**



# THE PREDICAMENT





# THE PREDICAMENT

**Option 1)**



# THE PREDICAMENT

Option 1) **If “from God”**



# THE PREDICAMENT

Option 1) If “from God”

**Then...why don't you listen to Jesus and follow him?**



# THE PREDICAMENT

Option 1) If “from God”

Then...why don't you listen to Jesus and follow him?

**Option 2)**



# THE PREDICAMENT

Option 1) If “from God”

Then...why don't you listen to Jesus and follow him?

Option 2) **If “from man”**



# THE PREDICAMENT

Option 1) If “from God”

Then...why don't you listen to Jesus and follow him?

Option 2) If “from man”

**Then...we are in big trouble because the people believe John is from God.**



## Mark 11:27-33

<sup>27</sup> And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, <sup>28</sup> and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup> Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.” <sup>31</sup> And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>32</sup> But shall we say, ‘From man’?” — they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. <sup>33</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”



# What we learn about the religious leaders...





## **What we learn about the religious leaders...**

- **Their cowardice exceeded their convictions.**



## What we learn about the religious leaders...

- Their cowardice exceeded their convictions.
- **Their convictions about Jesus were wrong.**



## What we learn about the religious leaders...

- Their cowardice exceeded their convictions.
- Their convictions about Jesus were wrong.
- **They really should not have much credibility.**



THE QUESTION

THE REPLY

THE PREDICAMENT

**THE POINT**



# THE POINT



## THE POINT

**“Jesus never gets outsmarted, because he is the Messiah, he is God. Everyone who wants to experience eternal life, a happy, meaningful life, must listen to him.**



**We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...**



**We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...**

- **No God**





**We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...**

- No God
- **Other religions**



**We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...**

- No God
- Other religions
- **Any religion**



**We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...**

- No God
- Other religions
- Any religion
- **Cultural disregard for Scripture**



**We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...**

- No God
- Other religions
- Any religion
- Cultural disregard for Scripture
- **Evangelical Drift**



# We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...

- No God
- Other religions
- Any religion
- Cultural disregard for Scripture
- Evangelical Drift
  - **Diminishing trust in Scripture**



## We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...

- No God
- Other religions
- Any religion
- Cultural disregard for Scripture
- Evangelical Drift
  - Diminishing trust in Scripture
  - **Diminishing emphasis on Christ as THE foundation of being saved**



# We must be able to sort out Jesus' voice from all the others...

- No God
- Other religions
- Any religion
- Cultural disregard for Scripture
- Evangelical Drift
  - Diminishing trust in Scripture
  - Diminishing emphasis on Christ as THE foundation of being saved
  - **Diminishing convictions about expressions of faith**



# Liabilities of the Evangelical Drift...





## **Liabilities of the Evangelical Drift...**

- **Creating god/God of their liking**



## Liabilities of the Evangelical Drift...

- Creating god/God of their liking
- **Not realizing the arrogance of their thinking**



## Liabilities of the Evangelical Drift...

- Creating god/God of their liking
- Not realizing the arrogance of their thinking
- **Risking accurate understanding of God/faith/salvation**



**Questions we must be asking...**



## Questions we must be asking...

- **Should Jesus be trusted?**



## Questions we must be asking...

- Should Jesus be trusted?
- **What is Jesus saying?**



## Questions we must be asking...

- Should Jesus be trusted?
- What is Jesus saying?
  - **Not primarily about behaviors**



## Questions we must be asking...

- Should Jesus be trusted?
- What is Jesus saying?
  - Not primarily about behaviors
  - **Is about an accurate picture of Jesus**





## Questions we must be asking...

- Should Jesus be trusted?
- What is Jesus saying?
  - Not primarily about behaviors
  - Is about an accurate picture of Jesus
  - **Is about faith**



## Questions we must be asking...

- Should Jesus be trusted?
- What is Jesus saying?
- **Am I listening to Jesus?**



## Questions we must be asking...

- Should Jesus be trusted?
- What is Jesus saying?
- Am I listening to Jesus?
  - **Love listening to Jesus**



## Questions we must be asking...

- Should Jesus be trusted?
- What is Jesus saying?
- Am I listening to Jesus?
  - Love listening to Jesus
  - **Convinced listening to him makes life better**



## Questions we must be asking...

- Should Jesus be trusted?
- What is Jesus saying?
- Am I listening to Jesus?
  - Love listening to Jesus
  - Convinced listening to him makes life better
  - **Certain trusting/following (joyfully obeying) Jesus is the key to a happy, meaningful life**