

## **I'll Send My Son**

Mark 11:27 – 12:12

by Don Falkos

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The religious leaders came to Jesus with a question. "Who gave you the authority to do what you're doing?"

Jesus replied, "Answer my question and I'll answer yours. John's baptism – did it come from heaven or was it purely human?"

They talked it over, "If we say it was from heaven, he'll ask, 'Then why didn't you believe in him?' But we don't dare say it was purely human." They were afraid of the people, who were convinced John was a prophet. So they replied, "We don't know where it came from."

"In that case," said Jesus, "I'm not going to tell you by what authority I do the things that I do."

Then Jesus told the people this story:

A man planted a vineyard, leased it to a group of men, and then went off on a long trip. When the time came for the harvest, the owner sent servant after servant to collect his share of the crop. Some were beaten by the tenants, others were killed.

Then the owner thought, "I'll send my son, whom I love. They'll have to respect him."

But when the tenants saw the owner's son they said, "Someday he's going to own the vineyard. Let's kill him. Then we can claim the vineyard for ourselves." So they killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.

"What do you think the owner will do? He'll come back, kill those men, and give the vineyard to other tenants. As the scriptures say, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.' "

The religious leaders wanted desperately to arrest Jesus right then and there. They knew Jesus' story was about them. But they were afraid of the people, so they left him and went away.