

## **HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THOSE HARDENED IN UNBELIEF?**

**Learning from how Jesus dealt with His hypocritical religious adversaries  
Matthew 21:23-27**

- I. RECOGNIZE THE QUESTIONS FROM THE HARDENED RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITES CONCERNING CHRIST ARE FORMED TO TRAP & DISCREDIT HIM in the people's eyes rather than to understand truth concerning Him (23, misc. passages)**
  - A. Jesus while teaching in the temple is approached by the leaders who question Him concerning His authority (23)**
  
  - B. The religious leaders questioning Him were hardened in unbelief and thus desired to trap, discredit and kill Him (misc. passages)**
  
- II. LEARN FROM HOW JESUS RESPONDED: He did not answer them, but instead unveiled their hypocrisy in a parable for the benefit of the crowds, condemning them for their unbelief and thus lack of repentance (24-32)**
  - A. Jesus answers their question with a question forcing them to deal with their guile, hypocrisy and unbelief: What was the source of the baptism of John, heaven or men? (24-25a)**
  
  - B. The leaders reasoning concerning how to answer reveals their cowardly guile, hypocrisy and unbelief (25b-27a)**
  
  - C. Because of their wicked unbelief Jesus does not answer their question (27b)**
  
  - D. JESUS SHARES A PARABLE THAT UNVEILS AND CONDEMNS THE LEADERS for their unbelief and thus lack of repentance, revealed by their not doing God's will (28-32)**

Next week Lord willing