

I. Read Luke 20:1-8

- A. In verse 1-2, a delegation from the Sanhedrin posed a question about authority to Jesus. Jesus responded by asking them a question about John the Baptist. Read John 1:6-7 and Luke 3:15-17 and explain how understanding John's ministry and mission was the answer to their question regarding Jesus' authority.
- B. The question of the "priests and the scribes with the elders" could be viewed as a *sovereignty* question, in substance not unlike similar questions regarding the doctrine of election. Read Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11; John 15:16; Roman 9:10-24 and explain how the issues raised in these verses tend to provoke men to question God's sovereignty (authority).
- C. Why did Jesus answer the delegation's question with a question?
- D. Many aspects of a believer's sanctification process revolve around questions concerning the sovereignty of God. Why is this so?
- E. What are some practical matters that you continue to struggle with that really amount to questions about God's authority over your life? (Think in terms of stewardship, obedience, contentment, etc.)
- F. Do you think our questions about predestination and the doctrine of election are more a matter of legitimate intellectual doubts or simply a reluctance to submit to the absolute authority of God — or perhaps both?

G. Is it ever appropriate to challenge religious authorities?

H. How did John the Baptist complement the ministry of Christ?