Matthew 21:23-32
23 Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”
24 Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 25 John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’
26 But if we say, ‘From men’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”
27 So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”
Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
28 “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’
29 “I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.
30 “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.
31 “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered.
Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.
32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Matthew 21:8-9
8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!”
Matthew 21:12-15
12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’” 14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

Matthew 21:23
23 Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

“Who do you think you are Jesus? And what makes you so special?”

Matthew 21:24-25
24 Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 25 John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ They are saying, “If you answer this question rightly, then you’ve got the answer to the question you just asked me.”

Matthew 3:2
and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Matthew 3:10-11
10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

John 1:29-30
9 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”

Jesus is saying, “If you answer this question rightly, then you’ve got the answer to the question you just asked me.”

If they said “No”... they risk the people turning on them

If they said “Yes”... they must recognize Jesus’ Lordship

“We don’t know.”

Jesus’ authority and uniqueness was obvious, but the religious authorities didn’t want to admit it.

“What do you think you are Jesus? And what makes you so special?”

“If you answer this question rightly, then you’ve got the answer to the question you just asked me.”

“If they said “No”... they risk the people turning on them

“If they said “Yes”... they must recognize Jesus’ Lordship

“We don’t know.”

“Those who will not see shall not see.”
Everyone has faith. The question is: what are you putting your faith in? And do you have a valid and reasonable basis for your faith? When it comes to biblical Christianity, we’re not making a blind leap of faith; this isn’t wishful thinking.

2,000 years later most people in our world still fail to acknowledge the authority and uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Why?

- rooted in history
- consistent with science
- confirmed by archaeology
- verified by eyewitness testimony
- supported by thousands of ancient biblical manuscripts
- affirmed by hundreds of fulfilled prophecies
- championed by countless martyrs
- lives changed
- cultures transformed
- societal evils abated

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Jesus plus anything else is not the biblical gospel.
2,000 years later, most people in our world still fail to acknowledge the authority and uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Why?

The bottom-line for all who fail to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord is ultimately pride.

With Jesus, salvation is a free gift, but it’s unconditional surrender.

Matthew 21:28-32

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’”

“I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, “I will, sir,” but he did not go.

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

What God desires is our full allegiance.

You will know His followers by their fruit (Mt. 7:20).

“Does my life bear the fruit of one who’s submitted to Christ and is guided by the Holy Spirit?”

3 encouragements:

1) Examine the claims of Jesus Christ.
2) Submit to Jesus Christ as Lord.
3) Ask the Lord to reveal those areas in your life that are still not fully submitted to Him.