The Purpose (Why did God write this?): To show that Jesus is wiser than His enemies, not intimidated by them, not subject to their will, and will not divulge the kind and source of His authority to those who irreverently question it.

27 They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts,

As the religious leaders approach Jesus here, they are plotting his murder.

the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. 28 “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?”

Asking Jesus questions irreverently cannot be acceptable; asking questions reverently is acceptable.

Jesus wouldn't reveal to His enemies where He got His authority unless they passed a one-question pop-quiz:

29 Jesus replied, “I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 30 John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!” 31 They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ 32 But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ …” (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) 33 So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

That wasn't one of the options; they failed the quiz. The result:

Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Here we see that Jesus is wiser, not intimidated, and not subject to the will of His enemies.

What if Jesus had been willing to talk about His authority—what would He have told them?

How can I live in light of Jesus' authority? Here are ten ways to do that:

1) Prayerfully review the many scriptures that speak of various kinds of "authority."
2) Praise God for Jesus' authority.
3) Thank God for Jesus' authority.
4) Live under Jesus' authority, obeying His word.
5) Say no to sin: "How could I . . . " (Gen 39:9).
6) Say no to Satan: "the Lord rebuke you" (Jude 9).
7) Teach others to honor God's pure, perfect authority.
9) Pray powerfully—B.R.E.A.D.

The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Those who irreverently question Jesus' authority will be left with their questions unanswered and their souls endangered.
"Jesus Was Not Taking Questions"
Mark11:27-33 (NIV)  Pastor Robert Brandhagen

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