**By what authority are you doing these things?**

**MONDAY DICEMBER 14 (Mt 21,23-27)**

The answer to this question by the chief priests and elders of the people Jesus gave it in the Gospel according to John: *“Jesus answered and said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also. For the Father loves his Son and shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes. Nor does the Father judge anyone, but he has given all judgment to his Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.” I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me. (Jn 5,19-30).* It is the Father who has given him all power on earth and in heaven.

The answer was also given in the Gospel according to Matthew: *At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Mt 11,25-30).* The whole Father has placed in the hands of his Son. On the contrary, the Father himself and the Holy Spirit delivered themselves to Christ the Lord. So great is the power that the Father has given to his Son. He did it all for his great love.

*When he had come into the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them in reply, "I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me, then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things. Where was John's baptism from? Was it of heavenly or of human origin?" They discussed this among themselves and said, "If we say 'Of heavenly origin,' he will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we fear the crowd, for they all regard John as a prophet. "So they said to Jesus in reply, "We do not know." He himself said to them, "Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things.*

Today, in this particular historical moment, Jesus cannot give them this answer. His wisdom enlightens him so that he can escape and thus not tell his truth. He is at risk of being stoned and he will not have to die by stoning but by crucifixion. He will confess this truth tomorrow before the Sanhedrin and for his confession he will be sentenced to death. As Jesus in wisdom knows what to say and how to say it, what to affirm and what to keep silent, when to manifest and when to omit every manifestation, so it must happen for every disciple of Jesus. Whoever walks in the Holy Spirit will always be governed by his wisdom, which is prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. On the other hand, those who live in sin will always speak from their heart. He is silent when he should speak, he speaks when he should be silent. Without the wisdom of the Holy Spirit we do not know the moments in which we must speak and the moments in which we must remain silent.

Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us live within the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.