

Luke 20

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Jesus on Talk Radio

- I. 20:1-8 By What Authority?

- A. Notice how the religious leaders came to their conclusions. They formulated their response to Jesus by how it would sound in a public debate – without regard for the truth.

*John 8:31-32 (NKJV) ³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²And **you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**"*

*John 18:37 (NKJV) ³⁷... For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. **Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.**"*

- B. Jesus' goal was not to win an argument, but to get them to face reality. Had the religious leaders understood that John's authority came from heaven, they would have happily believed him, believed Jesus, and been saved.

- II. 20:9-19 Parable of the Vineyard

- A. The prophet Isaiah compared the nation of Israel to a vineyard.

Isaiah 5:7 (NKJV) For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

- B. If the nation is the vineyard, the vinedressers (tenant farmers) would be these religious leaders of Israel. They rejected God's prophets and now they are rejecting His Son and plotting to kill Him.

- i. Again, Christ's goal is to point them to Himself.

- C. 20:17 Jesus quotes from Psalm 118, a messianic psalm.

- D. 20:19 They knew Jesus had spoken the parable against them, but they refused to acknowledge His authority and submit to Him.

- E. What about us? Jesus expects fruit from our lives. He explains that in John **15:1-17**.

III. 20:20-26 What about Taxes?

- A. 20:20 They *pretended to be righteous*. That's a sad place to be, pretending to be righteous. Far better to admit your sin, repent of it and come to the Lord for forgiveness.
- B. They thought they had Jesus trapped. If He speaks against the taxes, He's in trouble with the Romans; if He favors the taxes, He's in trouble with the Jews.
- C. Christ's answer reveals that the state does have some authority over our lives. If we benefit from Caesar's money, then we should abide by Caesar's rules. A good Christian will also be a good citizen – not a bad one.
- D. Just as the coin bore the image of Caesar, we bear the image of God.

Genesis 1:27 (NKJV) So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- E. We owe Caesar, our government, some measure of loyalty – we certainly have to pay taxes, but our bodies, our lives, our selves, belong to God. We bear His image personally.
 - It may be tarnished, scratched, blemished and distorted, but His image is there. Each and every person alive on this earth is made in the image of God.

IV. 20:27-40 What about the Resurrection?

- A. 20:27 The Sadducees were the liberal theologians of their day. They were “sad, you see” because they practiced a religion that offered no hope. Sadducees were characterized more by what they didn't believe than by what they believed. They didn't believe in the resurrection or in angels or spirits of any kind.
- B. 20:28 The practice they speak of comes from Deuteronomy 25:5-10. It really was practiced in Old Testament times. The marriage of Ruth and Boaz was an example of this.
- C. 20:36 *equal to the angels* “Like the angels” This statement provides us with several lessons:
 - i. The Sadducees' disbelief in angels was wrong. They do exist.
 - ii. In the resurrection we will no longer marry and reproduce. We will live in a state above and beyond that in the age to come.
 - iii. Redeemed people will actually be above angels – more than equal to them.

*1 Corinthians 6:3 (NKJV) Do you not know that **we shall judge angels**? ...*

*1 John 3:2 (NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.*

V. 20:41-44 How Is the Christ David's Son?

- A. The culture of that day was extremely patriarchal. The idea of a son being called “Lord” by his father was a complete contradiction. Fathers were revered by their children and grandchildren.
- B. The point Jesus is making is, of course, about Himself. He is trying to draw their attention to who He really is.
 - i. He speaks here of the *incarnation*. The concept that Jesus is both God and man at the same time.

Jesus Christ is God in the form of man; as completely God as if he were not man; as completely man as if he were not God.

– Behrends, A. J. F.

- ii. He is so completely God that John the Baptist could say “[His} sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” (John 1:27)
 - iii. He is so completely human that He appeared as a babe born in Bethlehem. He submitted to Mary and Joseph as a child to parents. He increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.

VI. 20:45-47 Beware of the Scribes

- A. Jesus is talking to His disciples – and truly talking to us. As the Good Shepherd, He's trying to protect His sheep from wolves and other nasty predators. We do well to heed His warning.
- B. The scribes of our day are those who want you to view them as spiritual celebrities. They cultivate a reputation of religiosity. It comes across in their demeanor, the way they dress and the way they talk.
- C. 20:47 *for a pretense make long prayers* Their prayers are long and normally filled with spiritual jargon. But the lengthy prayers are all just part of the show. They want you to believe that they are spiritual, but like those spies in v.20 they are only “pretending to be righteous”.

devour widows' houses They prey upon the most vulnerable. Why are religious organizations interested in helping people plan their estates?