

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 35

The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem publicly marked the coming of God Incarnate to His people as their long-expected Messiah, Redeemer and King. While there was excitement and great joy among the people, there was deep sadness in the Son of God, for He knew that His own people would neither recognize nor receive Him. As Jesus approached the city, He wept over it and lamented "...if you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you" (Luke 19:41-44).

This judgment of God resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and the withdrawal of the commission of Israel as God's ambassadors of salvation to the world. That commission would be passed on to Gentiles, who would believe in Jesus as the Christ.

Before beginning to study, ask God to provide insight and understanding so that you may mature as an ambassador of God's mercy and grace to a needy world.

1. Read Luke 20:1-8.

A. What two things was Jesus doing in the temple courts?

- B. At the same time, what groups of people were planning to challenge Jesus?
- C. What two questions do they ask Jesus?
- D. Why are they asking these questions? What did they intend by this line of inquiry?
- E. From Luke 20:2, what do you think “these things” refer to? (See Luke 19:45-46.)
- F. Use a dictionary to define “authority.”
- G. Read Mark 10:35-45.
- (1) From verses 42-45, describe two kinds of lordship or authority in this passage.

(2) What are some distinguishing characteristics of each?

(3) From your knowledge of the Old and New Testaments, list some examples of each.

H. From Luke 20:3-4, how does Jesus reply to the challenge of the chief priests, teachers of the law and elders?

I. How do the leaders of Israel respond to Jesus? What is the dilemma that Jesus' question poses for them?

J. Luke has told his readers that the authority of John the Baptist was from heaven. It was John who said of Jesus, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Moreover, the disciple John wrote, "I have seen and testify that this [Jesus] is the Son of God" (John 1:34). Considering these statements, how should have Israel's leaders responded to Jesus' question?

K. From the Luke passage, do you recognize any irony in the exchange between Jesus and the religious leaders? Please explain. How does this exchange illustrate the principle found in Galatians 6:7-8?

L. From Luke 20:8, how does Jesus respond to His questioners? Why do you think He responds as He does?

The Parable of the Tenants

2. Read Luke 20:9-19.

A. From Luke 20:9-16, summarize the story Jesus tells.

B. In the Old Testament, God continually reaches out to His people in mercy by sending His prophets, who urged them to repent and return to Him. What do you think is the real point of the parable Jesus told? What is He really saying?

- C. From verse 16, what is the reaction of the people to the parable? Did they get the point of the story? Please explain.
- D. Verses 17 and 18 further develop the point of the parable. Explain what Jesus is saying in your own words.
- E. Read Psalm 118:22-23 and Acts 4:8-12. Who is the stone the builders have rejected? Who has become the cornerstone?
- F. In verse 18, Luke records Jesus saying, “Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.” How would you interpret what Jesus is saying?
- G. From verse 19, what is the reaction of the chief priests and teachers of the law to Jesus’ proclamation? What did they know?

- H. Compare the reaction of the people to Jesus' story in Luke 20:16 to the response of the leaders in Luke 20:19. What truths did the people understand that the leaders did not?

Paying Taxes to Caesar

3. Read Matthew 22:15-22 and Luke 20:20-26.
- A. According to the Matthew passage, who are the groups that Luke refers to as "they" in his account?
- B. According to Matthew 22:18, what does Jesus call these groups?
- C. How is their hypocrisy revealed by what they say and do?
- D. From Luke 20:22, what do Jesus' antagonists ask Him? How does Jesus answer them (20:24)?

- E. Since Jesus answers a question with a question, how do His enemies reply (Luke 20:25)?

 - F. How does Jesus use this answer to answer their original question?
4. Read Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4.
- A. What instruction does the apostle Paul give regarding attitude and response to governmental authority?

 - B. Why?
5. Is there Biblical basis for ever rebelling against governmental authority? If so, what is it? Please cite Scripture to support your answer.
6. Read Luke 20:27-40 and Matthew 22:23-33.
- A. What did the Sadducees believe about resurrection?

B. Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10 and Ruth 4:1-17.

(1) How do these Scriptures inform the issue that the Sadducees ask Jesus about?

(2) What hypothetical situation do they present to Jesus?

(3) From Matthew 22:29, how does Jesus rebuke the Sadducees?

C. Refer again to Luke 20:27-40 and Matthew 22:23-33. What does Jesus say about the resurrection and power of God?

D. From Luke 20:39-40 and Matthew 22:33, how did the crowds and some of the teachers of the law respond to Jesus' teaching?

E. Jesus rebuked the Sadducees for knowing neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. Think about His remarks as you consider the following questions:

(1) How well do you think you know Scripture?

(2) What promises do you find in the following passages?

Psalm 1:1-3

Psalm 19:7-11

Psalm 119:105

Proverbs 6:23

(3) What might be some of the keys to experiencing the power of God in your life?

(4) What have you gleaned from Jesus' teaching about the following topics?

Resurrection of the dead

Marriage in heaven

Angels

God of the living

Whose Son is the Christ?

7. Read Luke 20:41-44 and Matthew 22:41-46
 - A. What does Jesus ask the Pharisees and those listening?

 - B. How would you answer Jesus' question? Use Scripture to support your answer.

8. Read Luke 20:45-47.
 - A. To whom is Jesus speaking? What warning does He give them about the teachers of the law?

B. What were the teachers doing that caused concern?

C. What judgment were they facing?

9. What are your impressions and applications from Luke 20?