

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 36

In chapter 20 of Luke's gospel, Jesus confounds his critics, who were questioning His authority, by telling them the parable of tenant farmers working a vineyard for the owner. The tenants had killed each slave the master sent to assess their work. Even the master's son was brutally murdered by the wicked tenants, who desired the vineyard for themselves. Jesus concludes the story by warning His listeners that the master would take back the vineyard from the evil tenants and give it to others. Jesus' critics were shocked and angry because they understood that He was predicting their loss of spiritual leadership. Undeterred, they try to trap Him with a politically explosive question about paying taxes to the Roman government. Jesus asks whose portrait and inscription are on the coin. When they say "Caesar's," Jesus says to give to Caesar what is his and to God what is His. Astonished, the critics are temporarily speechless.

Later the Sadducees take a turn trying to trap Jesus with a hypothetical question about resurrection and marriage in the age to come. Jesus stuns them by saying that life after resurrection does not follow the same principles as life on earth. The chapter concludes with Jesus asking the questions, questions that His enemies cannot begin to answer.

Before beginning to study, you may want to thank God for His blessings and to ask for insight and understanding.

Widow's Offering

1. Read Luke 21:1-4. Compare "the rich" and the "poor widow" in the following ways:

A. The amount each put into the temple treasury.

B. The attitude of each toward “giving.”

C. Which of them Jesus commended and why.

2. Read Malachi 3:8-12 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. What principles of giving do you glean from these passages?

3. From God’s perspective, which is more important, the amount you give or your attitude in giving? Why?

4. From 2 Corinthians 9:7, what kind of attitude pleases God? Why?

Eschatological Discourse

5. Use a dictionary to define “eschatological.”

6. Read Luke 21:5-11.
 - A. What do Jesus’ disciples observe about the temple in Jerusalem?

 - B. How does Jesus respond to their comments?

 - C. In reply, what do the disciples ask Jesus?

 - D. From Luke 21:8-11: Jesus tells His disciples not to be _____ or _____, even though the following things will take place:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

7. In Luke 21:12-19, Jesus continues teaching about the future by warning that certain things will happen to His followers.

A. What things will happen?

B. Instead of worrying about what to say before persecution comes, what are the disciples to do?

C. From Luke 21:16, how personal and severe will the persecution be? Why will disciples be hated?

- D. From Luke 21:15 and 18-19, what words of assurance and comfort does Jesus give His followers?

Coming Destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem

- 8. Read Luke 21:20-24.
 - A. What judgment awaits Jerusalem?

 - B. What sign will indicate that judgment is imminent?

 - C. When this sign occurs, what should Jesus' followers do?

 - D. Why would these actions be unusual for people of Jesus' day?

 - E. From Luke 21:23-24, describe the severity of God's judgment against Jerusalem and its people. How long will the judgment last?

F. From a resource or your knowledge of history, what happened to the temple and city in AD 70? (Refer to The Works of Josephus if possible.)

9. Read Luke 21:25-38.

A. What signs precede the return of the Son of Man?

B. Who is the Son of Man?

C. From Luke 21:28, when these signs appear, how are Christ's followers to respond?

D. How does the parable of the fig tree illustrate the principle about the expected return of Jesus?

E. What is that principle?

F. From Luke 21:31-36:

(1) How does Jesus reinforce this principle?

(2) What does Jesus declare about heaven, earth and His words?

(3) What warnings does Jesus give His followers?

(4) Why?

10. Reread Luke 21:37-38. What do you observe about the daily routines of Jesus and the people?