

## The Great Physician

### Luke 20:1-20

- Jesus is in the final week of His public ministry here on earth, about to face the cross Jesus is still reaching out to others. What if you knew you only had a week left on this earth what would be most important to you? Would it be others or making yourself as comfortable as possible as you transition into eternity, well Jesus although facing imminent death is still putting others first.

#### V1-20

- **V1-2** on Sunday Jesus announces to everyone that He is the Messiah as He rides into Jerusalem on a Donkey just as **Zech 9:9** said He would, on Monday He enters into the Temple and cleanses it of all who was participating in dishonest practices, and afterward He is teaching daily in the temple to all who was willing to listen, this truly is a week for all who were there to remember.
- On Tuesday in one of those times that Jesus is teaching all three of the main religious groups known as the Sanhedrin came to confront Him about everything that He's been doing, specifically casting out the money changers and calling them thieves. This dramatic event had captured the attention of the people and aroused the anger of the religious establishment.
- In **Lk 9:22** Jesus had warned His disciples that this very thing was going to happen so they shouldn't have been surprised, as He certainly wasn't. They ask two questions: **1<sup>st</sup>** on what authority do You have to do these things, **2<sup>nd</sup>** and if You do have authority Who gave it to You? Authority is very important for the success of any social, political or spiritual organization, for without authority you have confusion and chaos. The Chief priests claim their authority from Moses for the Law set the tribe of Levi apart to serve in the sanctuary.
- The scribes who were students of the Law said claimed their authority came from the rabbis whose interpretations they studied, and the elders claimed their authority from the prominent families and clans that they associated with. Now they want to know where Jesus authority came from, this of course is a loaded question because no matter how Jesus answered they were looking to trap Him in His answers, what do you mean?
- If He says His authority came from God then He would be in trouble with the Romans who were looking out for any would be Messiah's. If He says that He had no authority then He would be in trouble with the Jews for invading their temple and claiming to be a prophet especially during Passover. **V3-7** notice the Lord's wise approach as He answers their question with a question by taking them back to John the Baptist and asking "was the baptism of John from heaven or men?"

- If they said it was of men then it would rile up many of the Jews who believed John was a true Prophet from God, but if they say it was from God then they would have to agree with John who pointed to Jesus and called Him “**The Lamb of God**”. Now the religious leaders are in a dilemma, knowing that whatever answer they give they were in trouble so they decided to pay dumb and not answer at all, so they were **deceitful** in asking the question and **dishonest** in avoiding it.
- **V8-16** Jesus in turn doesn’t answer them either > **Ps 18:26**- you cannot outsmart the Lord, if you try and be slick with Him then He will entrap you in your own devices. Jesus gives them a parable sharing how the Lord had blessed Israel abundantly referring to > **Is 5:1-7** - in giving Israel a rich and pleasant land, all He asked in return is for them to obey His Word and give Him the spiritual harvest that He deserved. But instead of being grateful for their blessings and joyfully giving the Lord His due, the nation proceeded to rob God and reject His messengers > **Jer 7:25-26, 25:4**.
- God being patient sent one messenger after another and finally He sends His Son whom they kill, Jesus is telling His own story here and the people around Him don’t get it. What’s interesting is in Jewish Law any man could claim ownerless property and in this story it shows how the Jews thought that if they killed the Son then they didn’t have to answer to anyone and claim the vineyard for themselves. Sadly people think like that today they wrongly believe that if they remove Jesus then they can live any way they want and not have to answer to God for it.
- **V17-18** they reject the parable and Jesus fixes a steady gaze on them and quotes **Ps 118:22** which is a Messianic verse and by sharing it Jesus is clearly telling them He is the Messiah, The Stone who the builders rejected but has become the Chief Cornerstone, Whom if anyone falls upon by humbling themselves they will be broken and healed, but if they reject and resist it then that same Stone will fall on them and grind them into powder, wow!
- **V19-20** here we see again the heart of man, instead of heeding Jesus warning and repenting, they hatch a plan to arrest Jesus, but because they didn’t want to do it in front of everyone for fear that they would be exposed they send spies to watch and wait for an opportune time to grab Him. Sadly they think they are setting Jesus up for a fall but in reality they are setting themselves up for their own downfall.
- There are so many people in the church pretending to be righteous, you might ask how can you know them? As soon as something happens instead of being peacemakers they become troublemakers, and you realize that as long as you were saying things that they agreed on then they were fine but as soon as they disagree its time to instigate a spiritual riot.