

THE HEART CHECK | LUKE 20:27–21:4 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 07/19/26

I. Correct Theology (20:27-40) II. Complete Lordship (20:41-47) III. Costly Devotion (21:1-4)

INTRO: How healthy is your heart—not physically, but spiritually? Medicine uses stress tests and monitors to uncover hidden problems, but Scripture warns, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"* (Jer 17:9). – In today's passage, Jesus examines... 1) **what** we believe, 2) **who** we worship, 3) **why** we give—revealing whether beneath our religion lies **Pride** or **Genuine Humility**. → The question is not whether Jesus will examine our hearts, but **what He will uncover when He does**. – Today's passage confronts each of us with... **THE HEART CHECK**

I. CORRECT THEOLOGY (20:27-40) – Following the Pharisees' failure to trap Jesus regarding taxes (20:26), **another group stepped forward**. – Luke identifies them as the **Sadducees**. – Unlike the Pharisees, the Sadducees denied angels, spirits, and especially miracles. (*The liberal theologians of the day!*)

- The Sadducees accepted only the first five books of Moses as **fully authoritative**. – Ironically, these religious leaders rejected one of God's greatest promises... the Resurrection (v.27)
- (John 11:25) *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live"*

A. A Skeptical Question (27-33) – **READ: The Sadducees approached Jesus** with what they believed was an impossible question. – Using the law of **Levirate Marriage** (cf. Deut 25:5-10), **they described a woman who married seven brothers**. – Then they asked, *"In the resurrection, whose wife will she be?"*

1. Their question wasn't born out of humility; **it was born out of unbelief and deceit**. – Many people still approach Scripture the same way today. – Instead of asking, *"Lord, what are You trying to teach me?"* they seek, *"How can I prove God wrong!"* They even **Bend His Word** for their benefit.
2. Their question was based on **Incorrect Theology!** – In Matthew's account Jesus plainly stated: *"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."* (Matt 22:29).

P/A: Jesus did not treat incorrect theology as an innocent mistake! – What we believe about God will ultimately determine how we live before God. – **ttm. (2 Tim 3:16-17)** – *Jesus then provides...*

B. A Superior Answer (34-38) – **READ: Jesus answered with perfect wisdom**. – He makes clear that **Marriage belongs to the sons of this present age (34)**. – And to expose their false belief, **He makes clear that The Resurrection** introduces an entirely different order of existence...

1. Those **"Counted worthy,"** are the ones who **BY FAITH**, (cf. 2 Thess 1:3-5), **endure in this age**, and will benefit in the **next age (Heaven)**, being **"Sons of the resurrection"** (35-36): *A few facts mentioned...*
 - **We will NOT die (36a)** – *Death is swallowed up in victory!* (cf. 1 Cor 15:54; Phil 3:20-21)
 - **We will NOT become angels, but in status are 'like angels' (36b)** – (Heb 12:22-23) *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect (whoa!)*
 - **We will NOT continue in earthly marriage!** – There is no need to 'procreate' because **DEATH No Longer Exists!** – **Our relationships will be perfected; Jesus Himself will satisfy every longing!**
2. Jesus then says **something remarkable (37)**: Since the Sadducees accepted Moses, ...

Jesus proved he resurrection using Moses! – He quoted God's words at the burning bush (Ex 3:15-15). *"I am the God of Abraham... Isaac... and Jacob."* God doesn't say *"I was,"* but *"I AM."* – The patriarchs died centuries before, but God still identified Himself to Moses as their God!

- Because **He is the God of the living**, 'they' **MUST still be alive!** (Rom 14:9) *For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*
- Jesus didn't merely answer their question... **He destroyed their entire argument**, using the very Scriptures they claimed to believe (*Torah/Pentateuch*).

P/A: God's Word always is the Superior Answer! We don't judge Scripture... Scripture judges us!

- (Heb 4:12) *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* God's Word, as we see next, will...

C. A Silenced Opposition (39-40) – **READ:** The scribes admitted, *"Teacher, You have spoken well."* So, no one dared ask Him another question. **Why? Because they just had HEART CHECK!**

- **Though the Sadducees** looked spiritually healthy on the outside, Jesus exposed what was happening underneath the surface. – **Their trap had failed...** His critics became speechless!

P/A: Oh, I long for the day that **every skeptic will stop arguing** and **start acknowledging who Jesus really is.** – (Rom 3:19) tells us that, *one day every mouth will likewise be stopped before the King!*

SEGUE: The religious leaders knew much about God... Yet failed to recognize God standing in front of them. – *That leads Jesus to the next examination...*

II. COMPLETE LORDSHIP (20:41-47) – Earlier in the chapter some questioned **His Authority** (1-2). – Jesus now presents a **POP QUIZ** to the Sadducees to make them think about His Deity!

A. A Revealing Question (41-44): – **READ:** Because most Jews believed that the **Messiah would descend from King David**, Jesus posed the question... *"How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David?"* – He then proceeds to quote (Ps 110:1), where David wrote, *"The LORD said to my Lord..."*

1. If Messiah is merely David's son... **Why does David call Him "Lord"?**
2. **The answer is Glorious!** – Jesus wasn't merely another descendant of David... **The Messiah is both David's Son and David's Lord.** This is **ONLY** possible because **JESUS IS LORD!** – *So then...*
 - **He is David's Creator!** (Rev 22:16) *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David..."* and **born of David's seed** (Rom 1:3)
 - He is **Fully Man and Fully God!** – Only the God-Man satisfies both truths! – This wasn't merely a theological puzzle. – His question then, was really **a declaration of HIS LORDSHIP!**

P/A: Josh McDowell's famous argument—often called the *"Trilemma"*—states that **because Jesus repeatedly and explicitly claimed to be God, He cannot simply be remembered as just a "Good Moral Teacher."** – Jesus must logically be one of three things: a Liar, a Lunatic, or LORD.

- Jesus' statement **Challenged His Skeptics**, asserting that one must make a definitive choice about Jesus' identity, rather than dismissing His claims while praising His ethics. (*What about you?*)

B. A Religious Performance (45-47): – **READ:** Jesus then Turned to the disciples (45), and warned **"Beware of the scribes"** (46) – Notice in particular what Jesus exposed: Their **STATUS** and **PRIVLEDGE!**

1. They loved... Long robes, Public greetings, and Important seats. – Their religion revolved around themselves. **Not God or His people!** – They looked holy...but loved applause → They sounded spiritual... but sought prominence! – *Worse still...*

2. **They devoured widows' houses** (47) – The very people they should have **PROTECTED** became the people they **EXPLOITED!** (cf. 2 Tim 3:5-7)

3. They also covered their greed with *'long public prayers.'* – **Outwardly Impressive... Inwardly Corrupt!** – Jesus declared, *"These will receive greater condemnation."* – **Woe!** (cf. Matt 23)

P/A: God is not Impressed with Religious Performance! That is Why He performs HEART CHECKS! – **He examines motives...** He looks beneath the robe into the heart. (Jer 17:10) says, *"I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways..."*

SEGUE: The scribes demanded to be noticed—but Jesus said, **"Notice the danger."** – Then we are told that Jesus **"noticed"** a certain one that no one else did! – *One who secretly exhibited...*

III. COSTLY DEVOTION (21:1-4) – **READ:** Standing near the temple treasury, *Jesus watched as the wealthy gave their large gifts*—perhaps hoping others would notice (1). But His eyes focus on someone the crowd had overlooked:

A. A Hidden Worshiper (2): *A poor widow*, who quietly worshipped God with her financial offering!

1. Luke tells us that she gave **Two Mites**. – In terms of purchasing power in today's economy, **two mites** are worth between **\$1.00** and **\$2.00**. *What is the significance of Jesus' notice?...*

2. She Possessed only two coins—and she gave them both. **Had she offered just one, she would still have given half of everything she owned.** **But her Costly Devotion would not divide the offering.**

B. A Heavenly Evaluation (3-4): When Jesus placed His **'Spiritual Stethoscope'** on her heart, He saw her motives and declared, *"This poor widow has put in more than all."* (3) – **How so?** *Simply because...*

1. She Surrendered **ALL THAT SHE HAD!** Which determined that **she Trusted God completely!**

2. She Gave out of her Poverty, the Rich gave out of their Abundance. (4) – (*Different ends of the spectrum*)

- The Rich gave from what they wouldn't miss... but she entrusted her future entirely to God!
- Jesus considered her offering was an act of worship!

P/A: God never asks us, *"How much did you give?"* He asks, *"How much of your heart came with it?"* **IT'S A HEART CHECK!** – **True worship always costs something!** – Even David understood this when he said, *"Nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing."* (2 Sam 24:24) – Human eyes measured the amount... **Jesus measured the sacrifice of the heart!**

C. A Humble Example: The widow never preached, never performed miracles, never held public office, yet Jesus acknowledged her faith! – He saw what no one else saw... So, He honored what everyone else overlooked! **HER COSTLY DEVOTION**

P/A: The greatest question today isn't... "*How much do I know?*" or "*How religious do I appear?*" or even "*How much do I give?*" – The real question is... **What does Jesus see when He examines my heart?** – (Prov 4:23) "*Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*"

FINAL CHALLENGES: Today Jesus still performs **Heart Examinations** aka, **HEART CHECKS**.

- Has your heart become **More Interested** in being right than **being righteous?** – **More Interested** in appearance than authenticity? **More Interested** in recognition than surrender?
- Ask the Lord today... "*Search me, O God, and know my heart... Try me and know my anxious thoughts... And lead me in the everlasting way.*" (Ps 139:23-24)

Because when Jesus checks the heart... He isn't looking for perfection. **He's looking for a heart that completely belongs to Him.**