

Luke 19:45-20:19

Seeing But Not Believing

Image Church // Inverted Kingdom Vol. 2 / Controversial Jesus: Wk. 7

Introduction

If you have your bibles go ahead and grab them and turn to Luke 19...

I can't find anything at home, esp. When my wife asks me to grab it...

- Meanwhile, she comes in, and in .5 seconds, she finds it, and it's right in front of me... Happens all the time... *Anybody else?*
- It can be right in front of me, and I miss it 9/10 times!

The same thing is often true when it comes to finding your phone or your keys... You look everywhere, and it was right in front of you, but you missed it!

I feel like this is also true when it comes to the YIELD sign on the road... YIELD doesn't mean stop- can we just establish that- and yet so many people miss that- it's right in front of them, and yet they are doing their own thing, and they don't comprehend the reality of the sign in front of them!

- ***The sign is designed to direct you forward- to keep you moving in the right direction, but instead, it drails people!***

What if this isn't isolated to everyday life situations, but what if this is how many of us interact with Jesus?

We're going to be picking up in **verse 45 of Chapter 19...**

Jesus has entered Jerusalem, and He's gone to the temple...

Luke 19:45-20:19

45 He went into the temple and began to throw out those who were selling, **46** and he said, **"It is written, my house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves!"**

What's happening here?

Well, remember, people were coming from all over to celebrate the Passover... And as a part of this, they would have needed animals to sacrifice- and so they would buy them in the city of Jerusalem...

And the issue here was ***not that sacrificial material was being sold, but how it was being done...***

This had become something that was used as an opportunity to take advantage of people financially in their sales and exploiting the poor...

And Jesus calls them on it, quoting from **Jeremiah 7:11** where God says ***through the Prophet Jerimiah: Has this house, which bears my name, become a den of robbers in your view? Yes, I too have seen it.***

Now you have to understand the weight of Jesus' quote...

- It's from one of Jerimiah's most scathing sermons to the people of Israel, where he's blasting Israel for their unfaithfulness, idolatry, and failure to pursue justice...
- And how in the midst of that, they are coming to the temple going through the motions with no regard for their sin...

IOW: they thought they could live how they wanted to because they had the temple... They are taking advantage of God's grace that was revealed through the temple...

- And in doing that, they were turning a place that was designed for worship into a gathering place for people without regard for God or His Holiness... The temple had become ***a cave for thieves*** (as the text is also translated)...
 - *It's kinda like Walmart... Kidding I shop there!*

But Jesus is saying that what happened then is what's happening now!!

- You have no regard for God... You come into a place that was meant for worship, and you have turned it into a place of disgrace!
- You think that you can practice the kind of corruption that happening here and be good with God...

Before we move on, let me ask you this... *Where is this true in your life?*

- *Are there places in your life where your taking advantage of the grace of God?*
 - Doing what you want to do and dismissing it as if it's not big deal... Going on with life as usual meanwhile actively practicing things that are counter to God...
 - What areas of your life need to be exposed and dismantled?!?

Now, the other thing to understand here is where this corruption is all happening in the temple...

It's happening in what's known as the **court of the Gentiles**...

- This is the place where non-Jews had the ability to gather, belong and pray. It was the place where outsiders could come and watch to see and behold God through the temple practices...

Jesus confronts them on this by quoting **Isaiah 56:7**... In **Isaiah 56**, the prophet Isaiah is foretelling what God's coming salvation will be like, and in **verse 7, Isaiah** says this about God's desire: **for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.**

I want you to see what God's intended purpose is... That all nations would gather together to worship God...

- **Appeal...**

House of prayer...

What Jesus is doing here is expressing the true purpose of the temple, and He's calling out the things that are happening that are counter to its intended purpose... He is, in essence, bringing a cleaning to the temple...

And I want you to see this connection, Jesus has the ability to do this because of who he is... ***I want you to notice the authority of Jesus here***... Jesus' authority is a key theme...

He tethers what Isaiah says to himself... He says: **It is written, my house will be a house of prayer**...

Here's why I think this is important, I think that the cleansing of the temple here *anticipates a new era of redemptive history that's about to come*...¹

- When Jesus would die on the cross the veil of the temple would be torn down... This was the division element between God and man...
- No longer did you have to go to one place to go to one temple to worship God, but *Jesus becomes the new temple*... *Giving us access to God through Himself*...
- And He would establish the church of Jesus-followers that would put God on display to the world!

This is the beauty of the authority of Jesus... And yet it also creates a point of tension which we're about to see...

Verse 47:

47 Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people were looking for a way to kill him, **48** but they could not find a way to do it, because all the people were captivated by what they heard.

Jesus was teaching in the temple every day- asserting His authority... Meanwhile, the chief priests and other religious leaders are furious so much so they're looking for a way to kill Jesus...

¹ Tony Merida, *Triumph and Tears*.

And yet watch this, in the midst of that **all the people were captivated by what they heard.**

- *Literally: they hung on every word...*
- This is a great mark of a disciple...
 - **Appeal...**

2 groups of people here... Which are you?

[Connection to intro question]

- One group is missing what right in front of them...
- They are seeing what Jesus is saying, and rather than allowing it to direct them to Him, they are using it to derail them!

Let's keep reading...

Chapter 20

1 One day as he was teaching the people in the temple and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the scribes, with the elders, came **2** and said to him, "Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Who is it who gave you this authority?"

Notice what they are questioning here... His Authority...

3 He answered them, "I will also ask you a question. **Tell me, 4 was the baptism of John from heaven or of human origin?"**

Love this; Jesus answers a question with a question... A good way to respond to people who oppose...

They huddle up... **Verse 5**

5 They discussed it among themselves: "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why didn't you believe him?' **6** But if we say, 'Of human origin,' all the people will stone us, because they are convinced that John was a prophet." **7** So they answered that they did not know its origin.

8 And Jesus said to them, "**Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.**"

Mike drop Jesus moment right there...

Alright, I want you to see this... **They are questioning the authority of Jesus... WHY?**

- They don't want to be under it... It infringes on their power and privilege... If Jesus really has the authority it changes everything for them!

Do you want to know why many people don't want to follow Jesus?

- Because they know the implications... They know that it will mean they have to give things up...

Appeal to the submitting to the authority of Jesus...

- *Savior and Lord...*

Appeal to the beauty of falling under His authority...

- He's the creator and sustainer, all-powerful!
- What He last out is not bad for you...

Example: My kids... If they had it their way, they would eat candy and stick a toy in the outlet and jump off the second floor!

- What they think will make them happy can really hurt them!

Jesus is not a dictator or a killjoy, he is the essence of Joy!

- Jesus isn't calling you to a set of rules; He's calling you to Himself...
 - Where you have walked, He has walked...
 - Where you have been tempted, He has been tempted...
- Following Jesus isn't about adhering to guidelines, it's about experiencing God!
- What Jesus calls us to is designed to point us to Him and keep us dependent on Him!
 - *Examples...*

Where are you not submitting to the authority of Jesus?

- Some of you need to start seeing submission to the authority of Jesus is a good thing!

- It takes you deeper into His character and His love!

Now Jesus is going to share a parable... Pay attention to it and even watch how the Religious leads respond...

9 Now he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, leased it to tenant farmers, and went away for a long time. **10** At harvest time he sent a servant to the farmers so that they might give him some fruit from the vineyard. But the farmers beat him and sent him away empty-handed. **11** He sent yet another servant, but they beat that one too, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. **12** And he sent yet a third, but they wounded this one too and threw him out. **13** "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What should I do? I will send my beloved son. Perhaps they will respect him.' **14** "But when the tenant farmers saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.' **15** So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? **16** He will come and kill those farmers and give the vineyard to others."

Now what's incredible is that the Story of the Bible is wrapped up in this parable... Let me show you...

God is the owner of the vineyard... The vineyard represents Israel...

The tenant farmers are the religious leaders (who this is aimed at)...

The servants that are sent represent the prophets God sent to Israel...

The son that is sent is Jesus...

But here's the thing, the religious haven't made any of these connections yet... They just hear the parable at face value...

But when they heard this they said, "That must never happen!"

But Jesus is about to bring this full circle for them:

- Jesus is going to quote from **Psalm 118** here, this is the 3rd time He's quoted from Psalm 118, making the connecting from the Psalm to Himself...

17 But he looked at them and said, "Then what is the meaning of this Scripture: **The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?**

Jesus is saying I am what this scripture points to; I am the stone that will be rejected and become the cornerstone...

Quickly, what is the significance of a **cornerstone**...

- The first stone set that everything else is built off of, the stone that everything rests on... This is who Jesus is... **He's the one that the entirety narrative of the bible rests on!**

And then Jesus says this...

18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but on whomever it falls, it will shatter him."

IOW: Everyone will encounter Jesus one day, and He will either be your means of salvation for those who believe or the means of destruction for those who reject Him...

Let me talk to the non-Christians in the room for just a second...

I know that when you hear this it may seem harsh or unfair, but I want you to see the beauty in this...

- *God provided a way out of this destruction when He didn't have to...*
- *The Gospel is Jesus was crushed, so you don't have to be!*

Don't allow this to derail you; allow it to drive you to Jesus this morning, allow it to show you the love of God... **John 3:16**...

- **Hebrews 12:2** *For the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross...*
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Now the religious boys get it, and they're hot!

19 Then the scribes and the chief priests looked for a way to get their hands on him that very hour, because they knew he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.

Alright, so here's where we land...

And this is my question to you... Do you see the reality of who is in front of you this morning... **Do you see Jesus?** Do you see that God's plan from the foundations of the world was to Send Jesus to come and do what you couldn't do for you?

Because what we walked through today shows us that there are only two groups of people...

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- There are those that don't see Jesus for who He is... Those that hear what He says and gets derailed by it...
- Or those who see how what Jesus says ultimately directs us back to Him!

Christian... if Jesus is the cornerstone what does it look like to build your life on him?

- it means submit your life to Him... example of how we write our priorities... Jesus is the paper we write on...

Where are you closed handed where are you to allowing the authority of Jesus to penetrate your life?

- examples...

Do you understand that I'm not submitting to Jesus you're missing out on the blessing of knowing Jesus more?? Everything we're called to do every way we're called to build our lives in him is designed to draw us closer to Him?!?!?

- flesh out...

- this is hard but ***there is beauty in the battle!!***

Gospel... resurrection... waking in new life happens as you build your life on Christ!!!

But here's the other side, if you receive the cornerstone, there's also implications...

Let's talk about the implications of this... I want you to see the imagery of the cornerstone...

- What is it?

Apply:

- Building your whole life on Jesus... He is the foundation...
- Submitting to His authority...

What will you do with Jesus, or will you be his disciple of His executioner?

Conclusion [VAMP]

Two groups of people... Which are you?

Come back to this: [*Connection to intro question*]

- One group is missing what right in front of them...
- They are seeing what Jesus is saying, and rather than allowing it to direct them to Him, they are using it to derail them!

Reflect and Discuss

- What is grace?
- Why should we care about the grace of God?
- Are there places in your life where your taking advantage of the grace of God?
- Is Jesus the cornerstone/foundation of your life?
- In what ways do we submit to the authority of Jesus because he is our foundation? In other words, what is a practical example of Jesus's Lordship in your life?
- What is an area of your life where you struggle to submit to the lordship of Jesus? (Ex. Relationships, money, time, career, patience, prayer life...)
- Read Romans 8:1, what does this mean for times when we fail to submit an area of our life to the lordship of Christ?