

Luke 19:45-48**Zeal for God's House**

⁴⁵ When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling.⁴⁶ “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

⁴⁷ Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. ⁴⁸ Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

- Strategy 1: Address obvious issues head on with authority. (19:45-48)
- TAKE AWAY - There is a right way and seemingly a wrong way to worship the Lord! May we ensure that our worship is pleasing in the sight of God: the worship God desires is worship in Spirit and truth! The location to worship is no longer relegated to Jerusalem, for the temple has been gone for nearly two thousand years. Worship is a matter of the heart wherever you can exalt the name of the Lord and magnify him without reservation: like your CHURCH, car, home, park, the beach, a mountain-top, a river bank, a prison cell, or a field of wild flowers (fill in the blank)...
A worship service that focuses the attention on the worship leader or the band is an ACT of the flesh NOT spirit. Services where the people in the crowd are more like spectators enjoying the professional show lack an anointing that should be evident. Lyrics that focus on the worshipper and not the one who alone is to be worshipped are NOT based on truth. Our lips should glorify God. We can vent at times like the psalmist but we must always ensure the focal point of praise and worship is God and God alone!

Luke 20:1-8**The Lord's Authority is Obvious**

One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. ² “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”

³ He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me: ⁴ John's baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

⁵ They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn't you believe him?’ ⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.”

⁷ So they answered, “We don't know where it was from.”

⁸ Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

- Strategy 2: Avoid fruitless discussions with skill. (20:1-8)
- TAKE AWAY – sometimes controversy can be avoided using skillful tactics to throw your adversaries off balance. When a question is so obviously ludicrous that it does not deserve a response, like the one asked above, craft a response that silences your opponent or allows you to respond like Jesus and say then neither will I answer your question if you cannot answer mine!

Luke 20:9-19 **A Story that Stings (or “Jesus Knows How to Push Buttons!”)**

⁹ He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. ¹⁰ At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. ¹² He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

¹³ “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’

¹⁴ “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and 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 tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!”

¹⁷ Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

“‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’?

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

¹⁹ The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. ⁴⁸ Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

Luke 20:20-26 **Jesus Beats the “No Win Scenario”**

²⁰ Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. ²¹ So the spies questioned him: “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show

partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. ²² Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

²³ He saw through their duplicity and said to them, ²⁴ "Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

²⁵ He said to them, "Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

²⁶ They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

- Strategy 3: Apply wisdom and shrewdness when appropriate. (20:20-26)
- TAKE AWAY – when confronted with a seemingly impossible scenario to win, pray for the Lord to provide you with wisdom and insight to affirm your convictions, respect authority, and honor God. Try not to be duped. Take time to think things through before you respond to ensure you have the best possible answer.

Luke 20:27-40

Sound Doctrine Wins Every Time

²⁷ Some of the Sadducees (chief priests), who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. ²⁸ "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. ³⁰ The second³¹ and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. ³² Finally, the woman died too. ³³ Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, ³⁶ and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. ³⁷ But in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' ³⁸ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

³⁹ Some of the teachers of the law responded, "Well said, teacher!" ⁴⁰ And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

- Strategy 4: Answer using sound theology as a foundation. (20:27-40)

Jesus' Confrontation Strategies

- TAKE AWAY – Standing on the solid foundation of biblical theology will always ensure you have the right answer – God’s answer for any question! When facing a confrontation re biblical truth never be ashamed or afraid to open the book and point out the truth!

Jesus' Confrontation Strategies

1. Address obvious issues head on with authority. (19:45-48)
2. Avoid fruitless discussions with skill. (20:1-8)
3. Apply wisdom and shrewdness when appropriate. (20:20-26)
4. Answer using sound theology as a foundation. (20:27-40)