

“The Inspection of the Son of Man Part 2” Luke 20:20 – 21:4

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Luke 20:9-18

Last week we started the inspection process of the religious leaders of the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. As we reminded ourselves by what we just read of what was going on in the days prior to the Passover when Jesus will be killed. We looked at three instances last week and will look at four today. We left off with Jesus telling them the Parable of the Vineyard and how they knew He was speaking to them...

Luke 20:19

And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people—for they knew He had spoken this parable against them.

This is not the type of laying on hands that we would do but the kind that drags someone off to be stoned! Why? Because Jesus is a threat to their leadership. So, what do they do? Humble themselves? Go inquire of God what they should do? No!

Luke 20:20

So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.

The idea here is that of watching with intent to do harm. Not only that they sent people into His midst that pretended to be disciples. Good thing we don't see that anymore!

Galatians 2:4-5

And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Paul had to go to Jerusalem to make sure that there was no truth to these Judaizers who pretended to be Christians in order to bring them to bondage. Do you know that during Covid that the Government did this to Calvary Chapel San Jose? They came in saying "Praise God, Hallelujah" without their masks off and then stood up in court to bring charges against them. This next story is just that. They were looking for that "Ah Ha!" moment to bring to the government...

Is it Lawful to Pay Taxes?

Luke 20:21-26

This was the ole' catch 22. No matter how He answers we got Him! But God's wisdom is greater than man's and His answer stop them in their tracks but gives us an important truth. We are to render to Ceaser that which is his. This is the concept of the separation of Church and State. It does not mean a separation of Church from the State, only the State is not to tell the Church what to do. We saw how the Church of England treated George Whitfield in the movie "A Great Awakening". This is what happens when religion becomes part of the state. It was his preaching in America that led to the first and second amendments of our constitution. I know it's the Sunday after Tax Day, but we are to pay taxes. It is our duty as citizens.

Romans 13:5-7

Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

One of the ways that you and I get to be good witnesses of God's righteousness is to be good citizens. That's what this is referring to. It does not mean that we go and follow every mandate the government throws at us. But did you notice that it said "Customs to whom customs"? Do you know what that means for us? Voting! It is your duty, that many people died so you could have, to vote according to your conscience. Just saying that's all. But Jesus also said to "Render...to God". I wonder who that is speaking to today? Have you been giving to God that which is His. Oh, I am not talking about money at all. I am talking about you. Something for you to ponder as we move on.

What About the Resurrection?

Luke 20:27-39

Now in case you don't know who these guys are they were the liberal party of the Sanhedrin, the governing board of Israel at that time. They did not believe in miracles or Angels and did not believe in an afterlife. They were materialists and only held up the Torah, the five books of Moses as authoritative. You have to hand it to them they really thought this one through. They were referring to the Law of the Levirate Marriage found in Deuteronomy...

Deuteronomy 25:5-6

If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

This, of course, is dealing with the inheritance of both the name and the land allotted to the family. We see this fully played out in the book of Ruth with Boaz being the "Kinsman Redeemer". They want to make Jesus look like a fool and in the process get the people to reject Him as the Messiah. My only question would be to the third and fourth brothers is what are you thinking? She is what we would call a "Black Widow"! But the very One who spoke to Moses in the Burning Bush is the same one standing in front of them and can answer the way that He does. In Mark's gospel He starts off this way...

Mark 12:24

Jesus answered and said to them, "Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?"

If you think the Bible is just a bunch of rules and moral codes to live by you will never understand it's message. You have to know the one Who wrote it and if you do you know the power of the words it contains. Jesus does not mess around and comes up with a real dinger. The Words of God right out of the books they deemed authoritative!

Exodus 3:14-15

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
" Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.

Did you notice that Jesus takes the Word of God Literally? So much so, even down to present tense of the sentences! If God does not take His word allegorically, why should we?

Now let me deal with one quick thing before we move on. Some say because Jesus says we will be like the angels by not "Marrying or given in marriage" that means that the angels in Genesis 6 can't be having sex with women. But if we just let the scriptures speak for themselves...

Genesis 6:4

There were giants (Nephilim) on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God (Fallen Angels) **came in to** (Always means sex!) the daughters of men and they bore children to them. (The race of Giants)

The idea is we won't be living and dying after the resurrection and there by worrying about whose wife is who. The most important thing to walk away with is Jesus is confirming that there is life after death and that those that have died are still very much alive after they have passed from this life. The only question is quality. There are two places you will go and how you decide will be your eternity. The leaders chose wrong, don't make the same mistake!

Now Jesus turns the tables on them and throws a test their way...

Luke 20:41-44

And He said to them, "How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David? 42 Now David himself said in the Book of Psalms: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 43 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" ' 44 Therefore David calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?"

Jesus is now getting them to think about His constant confession that He is God. It was one of the many hangups they had of who He is. He quotes to them a Messianic Psalm...

Psalm 110:1

The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

This is a genius play on words! David writing in firsthand is saying that God the Father spoke to “his” lord or Adoni, meaning master or Lord. They are both names given to God! The only answer is that the Messiah has to be both a Man and God. This blew their mind as Matthew adds this..

Matthew 22:46

And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

No, they didn't, they just went on and plotted His death. Jesus knows this and rightfully warns His disciples...

Luke 20:45-47

Then, in the hearing of all the people, He said to His disciples, 46 “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the

synagogues, and the best places at feasts, 47 who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”

A woe to the religious! We are warned to watch out for them. Notice what the common denominator of this statement is...self! These guys were all about themselves. They were the “Look at me, look at me” group. The one thing I try to cultivate here is this is not another religion. We are not just one of many “Religious” Groups. The true church, the one made up by people who have been born again by the spirit of God, are not a new religion but those that have found a relationship with the One True God. Jesus Himself said...

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

It's not about quantity, but quality. God wants you to know Him and you will never find it in religion. It's not available by good works and church attendance. It's not available by pedigree or standing. It's only available by grace through faith! And when you find it, we are not bound by religious duty but gracious liberty!

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

The yoke of bondage here is the works of the law. The idea that being circumcised and following a list of rules makes you acceptable to God. This is the warning of the religious. Jesus is telling us today that we need to rely upon the gifts of the Spirit and not works of the Law. And when we do, we do not have a problem giving unto God the things that are God's!

Luke 21:1-4

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, 2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. 3 So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; 4 for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

This fits the end of chapter twenty as those giving out of abundance were those that were practicing their religious duty and the poor widow was giving her all. And notice it was not the amount that mattered! One of the habits of the modern church that makes me cringe is the focus on monetary giving. If anyone tells you that it is a sin not to tithe, run! Now, I have

done teachings on New Testament giving in the past and not going to bring it up this time but remind us of what Jesus said...

Luke 20:25

“Render...to God the things that are God’s.”

What is it that God requires of you? Yourself! It is even emphasized in the gospel itself!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God wants you not your works. He will give you works to do but never require anything more from you than faith. That is good news! That is Liberty!

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Religion Never, Relationship always!