Luke 20 Lesson 20

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?”

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

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

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

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

9He 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. 10At 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. 11He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. 12He 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.’ 15So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

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

17Jesus 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’?

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

19The 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.

20Keeping 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. 21So 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. 22Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

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

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

25He said to them, “Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

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

27Some of the Sadducees, 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. 29Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. 30The second 31and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children.32Finally, the woman died too. 33Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”

34Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35But 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, 36and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God’s children, since they are children of the resurrection. 37But 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.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+20&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25817b)] 38He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”

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

41Then Jesus said to them, “Why is it said that the Messiah is the son of David?42David himself declares in the Book of Psalms:

“‘The Lord said to my Lord:  
    “Sit at my right hand  
43until I make your enemies  
    a footstool for your feet.”’[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+20&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25823c)]

44David calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”

45While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, 46“Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets.47They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

1. In chapter 20, Jesus was in Jerusalem, and it was 4 days before His crucifixion. Just as the lambs to be sacrificed for Passover were being examined by the priests to make sure they had no spots or blemishes, Jesus, “the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” was being examined by the religious leaders. Where was Jesus and what was He doing in the days just before His death? Who else was there, and what were they doing?

2. If you knew you only had 4 days to live (and were healthy enough to be out and about), how would you spend those last few days? Are there any relationships you’d want to make right, or people with whom you’d want to share the Gospel? Does thinking about this cause you to want to make any changes in your life now?

3. What “things” (verse 2) had Jesus been doing to make the religious leaders question him? What about these things worried the religious leaders? Whose interests were they trying to protect? Why?

4. Although Jesus didn’t directly answer their question about who’d authorized Him to “do these things”, he told the parable of the tenants in verses 9-18. In this parable, who do each of these people represent, and what does this say about who gave Jesus the authority to “do these things”?

Who did the land owner represent?

The tenants:

The vineyard:

The land owner’s servants:

The land owner’s son:

What did this say about who Jesus really was and who’d sent Him, and what would happen to Him?

5. Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22 in verse 17. What do you think he meant by his prediction in verse 18?

6. The religious leaders’ spies asked Jesus in verse 22 “Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” What was the trap here?

If Jesus said “Pay Caesar” how would the crowds have responded? If he said “Don’t pay Caesar” how would the rulers have responded? How did Jesus skirt their trap and get down to the nitty gritty of what’s really important in life?

7. The Sadducees were an elite religious and political group who did not believe in the resurrection and only accepted the first 5 books of the Old Testament, (the Torah) written by Moses, as inspired scripture. Why would they pose a question to Jesus like they did in verse 33, and what did Jesus teach about life after death in verses 34-36?

8. How did Jesus then “prove” the resurrection from the Torah, and the words of Moses, their hero?

9. In verses 41-47 Jesus asked the religious leaders why David called his own offspring Lord? What was he trying to get them to see and admit?

10. Journal this passage SOAP style.