Luke

Chapter 20

Luke 20:1-8 – The Authority of Jesus Questioned

[1] 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?"

Luke 20:1-8 – The Authority of Jesus Questioned

[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."

🔑 Key Lessons

1. Authority in the Kingdom of God

- Jesus' authority is from the Father, but He reveals it to those open to truth — not to those playing political games.

2. Wisdom in Conflict

- Jesus models discernment: He doesn't fall into the trap of "either/or" when both options are manipulated to harm Him.

3. The Danger of Fear and Pride

- The leaders knew the implications of John's ministry, but **fear of the crowd** and **protecting their status** kept them from acknowledging truth.

4. Truth Demands Humility

- You can't discover truth if you are unwilling to let it confront and change you.

Luke 20:9-19 – The Parable of the Tenants

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.

Luke 20:9-19 – The Parable of the Tenants

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!”

Luke 20:9-19 – The Parable of the Tenants

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.

🔑 Key Lessons

1. God Entrusts His Kingdom

- Spiritual leaders are stewards, not owners. They are accountable for how they care for God’s people.

2. Persistent Grace

- God repeatedly sends messengers (prophets, teachers, ultimately His Son) — showing His patience and mercy.

3. Rejecting the Son Has Consequences

- To reject Jesus is to reject the very foundation of God’s kingdom — and this leads to inevitable judgment.

4. The Kingdom Will Not Fail

- Human rejection cannot derail God’s purposes. The rejected stone still becomes the cornerstone.

Luke 20:20-26 – Paying Taxes to Caesar

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,

Luke 20:20-26 – Paying Taxes to Caesar

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.

$372.00 USD

Hadrian 117-138AD AR Denarius.
Rome. Aeternitas

🔑 Key Lessons

1. Wisdom in Responding to Traps

- Jesus neither avoids the issue nor falls into the false dilemma — He reframes it truthfully.

2. Christians and Government

- There is a place for honoring civil duties (Romans 13:1–7), but never at the expense of God's ultimate authority.

3. God's Ultimate Claim

- The coin bears Caesar's image → give it to him.
- **We bear God's image** (Genesis 1:27) → we belong wholly to Him.

Luke 20:27-40 – The Resurrection and Marriage

27 Some 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. 29 Now there were seven
brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless.
30 The second 31 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?"

Luke 20:27-40 – The Resurrection and Marriage

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."

Luke 20:27-40 – The Resurrection and Marriage

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

🔑 Key Lessons

1. Jesus Affirms the Resurrection

- Eternal life is not simply the continuation of earthly life — it is a transformed, immortal existence in God's presence.

2. Scripture Is Sufficient to Answer Skeptics

- Jesus uses a single phrase from the Sadducees' own accepted Scriptures to dismantle their argument.

3. Life in the Age to Come Is Different

- Our current institutions (like marriage) serve purposes for this life; in eternity, those purposes are fulfilled in a deeper union with God.

4. God Is the God of the Living

- For God's people, death is not the end — they live to Him even now.

Luke 20:41-44 – Whose Son is the Messiah

41 Then Jesus said to them, "Why is it said that the
Messiah is the son of David? 42 David himself declares in
the Book of Psalms: " 'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at
my right hand 43 until I make your enemies a footstool
for your feet." ' 44 David calls him 'Lord.' How then can
he be his son?"

Luke 20:45-47 – Warning Against the Teachers of the Law

45 While 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. 47 They devour widows' houses
and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be
punished most severely."

🔑 Key Lessons

1. The Messiah Is More Than Expected

- Jesus affirms the Messiah's Davidic lineage but expands the vision: the Messiah is **Lord** — sovereign, eternal, and divine.

2. Religious Authority Must Be Humble and Just

- Outward piety means nothing if it masks pride, greed, and injustice.
- True leadership in God's kingdom serves others, especially the vulnerable.

3. God Sees Beyond Appearances

- The scribes were respected publicly, but Jesus exposes their hidden motives.
- This is a sober warning: religious status does not guarantee God's approval.

🙏 Prayer Based on Luke 20

Lord Jesus,

You are the Christ, the Son of David and the Lord of all.
You speak with wisdom that silences every falsehood,
and You teach the truth of God without fear or compromise.

Help me to honor Your authority in every part of my life.
When the world questions or challenges my faith,
give me discernment and courage to answer with truth and grace.
May my allegiance be to You above all earthly powers,
rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's, but giving to God what is God's —
my heart, my mind, my life.

Lord, thank You for the hope of the resurrection —
that death is not the end, but a doorway into eternal life with You.
Help me to live today with that hope shaping my priorities,
so that I pursue what will matter forever, not just for a moment.

Guard my heart from the pride and hypocrisy of the scribes.
Let me seek the honor that comes from You,
not the applause of people.
Make me a servant who protects and cares for the vulnerable,
not one who exploits or ignores them.

May I always be ready to hear and obey Your Word,
to walk humbly before You,
and to live in a way that reflects Your truth, justice, and mercy.

In Your holy name,
Amen.