

Luke 20

The authority of Jesus challenged

20¹ One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up² and said to him, “Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority.”³ He answered them, “I also will ask you a question. Now tell me,⁴ was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?”⁵ And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’⁶ But if we say, ‘From man,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.”⁷ So they answered that they did not know where it came from.⁸ And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

The parable of the wicked tenants

⁹ And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while.¹⁰ When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed.¹¹ And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed.¹² And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out.¹³ Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’¹⁴ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’¹⁵ And 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 destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!”¹⁷ But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

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

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

Paying taxes to Caesar

¹⁹ The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.²⁰ So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.²¹ So they asked him, “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God.²² Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?”²³ But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them,²⁴ “Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar's.”²⁵ He said

to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.”²⁶ And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marvelling at his answer they became silent.

Sadducees ask about the resurrection

²⁷ There came to him some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection,²⁸ and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.²⁹ Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children.³⁰ And the second³¹ and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died.³² Afterward the woman also died.³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.”

³⁴ And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage,³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.³⁷ But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.³⁸ Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.”³⁹ Then some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, you have spoken well.”⁴⁰ For they no longer dared to ask him any question.

Whose son is the Christ?

⁴¹ But he said to them, “How can they say that the Christ is David's son? ⁴² For David himself says in the Book of Psalms,

“The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
⁴³ until I make your enemies your footstool.”

⁴⁴ David thus calls him Lord, so how is he his son?”

Beware of the scribes

⁴⁵ And in the hearing of all the people he said to his disciples,⁴⁶ “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at feasts,⁴⁷ who devour widows' houses and for a pretence make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

Cross References

Isaiah 5 v 1 to 7:

Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briars and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

Psalm 118 v 22, 23:

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

Psalm 18 v 2:

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

1 Corinthians 10 v 4: and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ...

1 Corinthians 1 v 23: but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles...

Ephesians 2 v 20 to 22: built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit

1 Peter 2 v 4, 5: As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Daniel 2 v 34, 44, 45: As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces... And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.

Revelation 21 v 22, 23: ²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Psalm 110 v 1:

The LORD says to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Revelation 22 v 16: ¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”