

Spending Time with Jesus in Luke 20

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

First read through: Read Chapter 20 all the way through, imagining you are there.

Second read through: Look for themes and underline them in the color on your key.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

Luke 20:1-19

Right after pronouncing judgement on the Jews, Jesus enters Jerusalem both as the triumphant King of Kings and as the Passover Lamb. As Jesus rides in, the chief priests are examining that year's Passover lamb for the nation. It had to be perfect.

Where is Jesus teaching? What had he just done here on Sunday after entering Jerusalem?

The chief priests (who hadn't done anything until 19:47) are part of the group examining Jesus. They don't realize that they are examining THE Passover Lamb, but Luke does.

When they ask what authority Jesus has, he answers with a question about where John's baptism came from. Why would Jesus bring up John's baptism? (Hint: What happened at John's baptism that proved Jesus' authority to take over how they did things at the temple AND call them robbers who were using the temple as their den...their gang hide out?)

Does his answer...well, his question and then not answering their question...prove his authority? Is THE Passover Lamb passing inspection?

In the parable, who planted the vineyard? Does this surprise you a little?

There is a Jewish saying, "A man's agent is as himself." In other words, if you sent a servant to me to give me a message, your servant would tell you how I treated them. If I was rude to them, I was actually being rude to you. If I was generous to them, I was actually being generous to you.

How are the tenants treating the owner and creator of the vineyard?

Who is the owner of the vineyard representing? Who are his servants?

In the Old Testament, God uses a vineyard as a symbol for Israel. Who are the tenants?

What does it say about the owner that he doesn't punish the tenants at this point but sends his son instead? We know he loves his son...

What does it say about the son that he is willing to go and personally deliver his father's message?

When do the tenants decide to kill the son (v. 14)? Do you think they listened to what he had to say at all?

What do you think the people are saying, “God forbid!” about?

The crowd is pretty upset (the parable is about their leaders, after all). Why would Luke tell us that Jesus “looked directly” at the crowd as he quotes the Psalm about the cornerstone?

How important is a cornerstone?

Which would be better: to fall on a cornerstone and broken to pieces, or to have a cornerstone fall on you and be crushed?

Jesus is obviously making a point. What do you think it is?

Luke 20: 20-26

Jewish law said they were not to own anything with a picture of a human on it because it was too much like an idol. But Caesar’s tax had to be paid with the coin that had his picture on it. The Jews wrestled with what they were supposed to do.

Why did this question seem to be such a perfect trap?

If he said, “No, don’t pay them,” what could they have done?

If he said, “Yes, you should pay them,” what could they have done?

When did Jesus mess up their trap?

He could have just said, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s,” and been done. What else does he add and why?

So far, is THE Passover Lamb passing inspection?

Luke 20:27-40

Here's the only appearance of the Sadducees in Luke (we'll hear from them again in Acts.) They only believe the first 5 books of the OT are scripture, and they think believing in the resurrection is foolishness. They like using crazy stories to stump their opponents.

What do you think of the Sadducees' question?

Jesus surprises everyone by answering them from Exodus, which of course, the Sadducees believe to be true. What do you think would have surprised Jesus' listeners most about verses 35-36: that the resurrection was only for those "considered worthy" or that after the resurrection they would never die?

How surprised would they have been to hear that "to God all are alive," including Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

So far, is THE Passover Lamb passing inspection?

Luke 20:41-47

Hmmm...David was the greatest king, right? The Messiah was to be the son of David...so he was no greater than David, right? Kings were under the authority of prophets and the priests (remember how Nathan called David out for how he treated Bathsheba and her husband?)

Jesus is showing in the Psalms that Messiah is greater than David...in fact, greater than all.

What does it mean for someone to sit at the right hand of a ruler?

What does it mean for a ruler to make someone's enemies at footstool? (In the East, you don't let anyone see the bottom of your foot unless you mean to insult or shame them.)

Did the Passover Lamb pass inspection? Has he proven he has the authority to say and do all that he has done?

God lets us choose whether to accept Jesus' authority over our lives or not. If we really lived as though Jesus had the right to rule over us and was Sovereign over all, would we live differently? How so?