

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Hostile Interrogation

Luke 20: 1-26

We are skipping over some of the passages regarding the final triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the initial entrance into the Temple area. We will return to these passages in the Spring as we approach Holy Week and the Resurrection celebration. As we move to the 20th chapter of Luke we drop into the ministry of Jesus in the Temple court and the effort of the Jewish leaders to trip Him up in front of the crowd, hoping He will say something that will anger the crowd and give them popular support to arrest Him. It is sort of like the media and the current day so called Republican debates :-)

I. Powerful Teaching and Political Jealousy

- A. Jesus' temple teaching and preaching captivates the crowds**
 - 1. In His last week He is teaching and preaching daily
 - 2. All the people are hanging on to every word
- B. The Jewish leaders question His authority and its Source**
 - 1. They give Him two choices: heaven or men
 - 2. He answers with a question about John the Baptist
- C. The parable of the vineyard and the Vinegrower**
 - 1. A stewardship given to a chosen people
 - 2. Reasonable expectation to honor the Owner
 - 3. Servants are sent to collect the rent due (the Prophets)
 - 4. Finally the beloved Son is sent in hope they would respect Him
 - 5. Judgment is rendered for their hard heart and killing the Son
 - 6. The Stone which the builders rejected: the Chief Corner Stone
- D. A politically charged question to alienate the people over taxes**
 - 1. The buildup: a pretense of righteousness
 - 2. The dangerous question: submission to Rome or to God???
 - 3. A brilliant answer that silences the critics

II. Observations and Lessons From the Master Teacher

- A. Anointed preaching and teaching draws those who are hungry**
 - 1. There are always people in whom the Holy Spirit is at work and who are hungry for God
 - 2. They will recognize a truly anointed teacher and hang onto every word
- B. Jesus' conscious awareness of His identity: He is the Son of God and He is fully aware of that fact**
- C. Lessons in handling critics and those who are argumentative**
 - 1. Proverbs 26:4-5—how to answer a fool
 - 2. Proverbs 10:19—where there are many words sin is inevitable
 - 3. 2 Timothy 2:14—do not wrangle over words
 - 4. James 3:2—if anyone does not stumble in what he says...
 - 5. Ephesians 4:29-30—let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit...

On one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders confronted Him, and they spoke, saying to Him, "Tell us by what authority You are doing these things, or who is the one who gave You this authority?" Jesus answered and said to them, "I will also ask you a question, and you tell Me: Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?" They reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet." So they answered that they did not know where it came from. And Jesus said to them, "Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things." And He began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and rented it out to vine-growers, and went on a journey for a long time. At the harvest time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, so that they would give him some of the produce of the vineyard; but the vine-growers beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And he proceeded to send another slave; and they beat him also and treated him shamefully and sent him away empty-handed. And he proceeded to send a third; and this one also they wounded and cast out. The owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps

