
Luke 20: The Authority of Jesus Christ

Luk 20:1-8 ESV 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 up 2 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."

Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority

- They asked because he cast out those who sold in the temple [previous chapter Luk 19:45]
- They were the authorities - THEY didn't give it to Him - He didn't ask them
- He established His authority when he said "MY HOUSE shall be a house of prayer"

Jesus turns the question back to them and asked about John's Baptism

- Was it from **heaven**? - if they say YES, then Why don't they believe?
- Or was it from **man**? - if they say yes, the people will stone them

Can I Acknowledge There is Authority That is from Heaven - God's Authority?

Our source of authority impacts all we do

- Paul had authority from the chief priest - He was going to put Christians in prison
 - Act 9:14 KJV ...to bind all that call on thy name.
- But then Christ stepped in - and Paul submitted to this authority - His life changed
 - Act 9:5-6 KJV And he said, **Who art thou, Lord?** ... 6 And he trembling and astonished said, **Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?**

We live in a day similar to Judges - Every Man did what was right in his own eyes

- The Bible has much to say about submission: to God (James 4:6-7), to political authorities (Romans 13:1-7), to church leadership (Heb 13:17), within marriage (Col 3:18), and to one another (Eph 5:21).
- But the foundation of all these is to acknowledge the authority from heaven - everything else springs from that

Four Ways to Come To Terms With Christ's Authority

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.**" 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.

- Jesus states who He is - the heir of the vineyard
- Isa 5:7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel
- They will kill Him (Jesus is predicting what will happen in just a few days)
- They "do not want this man to reign over them" (see parable in Luk 19:14)

1) Fall on the stone

- Every human must interact with the Stone? what will it be for me?
- Have I fallen on the stone?
 - We fear humbling ourselves
 - We fear relinquishing control
 - We fear what surrender may require
 - We cannot remain unchanged at this cornerstone
- Or will it one day fall on me and crush me to powder to be blown away in the wind?

2) Render to God things that are God's

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 marveling at his answer they became silent.

- What will you have me do Lord?
- To pay back - to be accountable for - there are things that are God's

3) Receive the Scripture As the Authoritative Word of God

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 second 31 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.

- In other versions: it states You err not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God
- Jesus established Scripture as authoritative when He said, “in the passage about the bush”

What if we began to esteem His word about all things to be right?

- Psa 119:127-128 KJV Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. 128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

It is the fool who hears it and does nothing with it

- Mat 7:24-27 NIV "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Do what it says

- Jas 1:22 NIV Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

4) Live Under the Lordship of Jesus

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?" 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 honor at feasts, 47 who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

- The Greatest King of Israel calls him Lord
- Luk 6:46 NIV "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Php 2:8-11 NIV And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus **every knee** should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and **every tongue** acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.