

LUKE 20:20 - 21:4

REVIEW...

- **LUKE 19:28-48 - ENTERING JERUSALEM...**
 - A very important place - the Mt. of Olives - Jesus came riding in on a donkey...
 - A very important day - Palm Sunday - 'Even the stones will cry out'!...
 - The day the Jews were blinded - because they missed 'their day'...
 - The cleansing of the Temple - they had made a house of prayer into a den of thieves!
- **LUKE 20:1-19 - THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS REJECTION OF JESUS...**
 - 1st - The leaders came to Jesus in the Temple and demanded to know by what authority...
 - 2nd - Jesus gave them a two parables...
 - The two sons - showing it is our actions not our words that reveal who we are...
 - The Campo - the motive of the religious leaders was to steal the people from God
 - 3rd - Only two choices when it comes to Jesus...
 - Either we can fall on the stone and be broken - recognize our need for salvation...
 - Or the stones will fall on us and we will be crushed - the judgment of God!
 - The leaders knew Jesus was talking about them - they wanted to kill Him...

PLOTTING AGAINST JESUS...

- **THE 3 CHALLENGES TO JESUS... VS. 20**
 - Having been thoroughly humbled by Jesus before the people...
 - All the leaders – the Pharisees / Herodians / Sadducees / and Scribes – wanted revenge...
 - They were going to try and do it by trapping Jesus in His own words...
 - They sent out spies - men who pretended to follow Jesus - pretended to be righteous...
 - To try and get Jesus to say something that they might be able to accuse Him with...
 - Then they would turn him over to the Roman government to be punished!
 - They came at Jesus in three groups - asking 3 different questions...
- **1ST - THE PHARISEES & HERODIAN'S POLITICAL QUESTION... VS. 21-27**
 - The Pharisees - were the super spiritual / religious leaders of the day...
 - Best known for all of their rules and self-righteousness...
 - They were opposed to the Sadducees - and opposed to Romans rule...
 - The Herodians – those who were loyal to King Herod the Tetrarch (*King of Judea*)...
 - The same Herod who had put to death John the Baptist...
 - These were not moral or godly men – they were the politicians of the day...
 - They were Roman puppets that enforced the rule of Rome on the Jewish people...
 - They had no interest in religion or God - strange company for the religious Pharisees...
 - Except they had one thing in common – they hated Jesus!
 - They began with flattering words...
 - Teacher - we know that you are true - teach the way of God in truth...
 - They were not saying Jesus was THE truth – or taught THE truth...

- They were saying He was A truth – and taught A way to God (*one of many*)...
- We live in a world that says there are many ways to heaven – many truths...
- Like Pilate before Jesus - **John 18:37** - the world asks – “What is truth?”
- Truth is not open to interpretation (*subjective*) - it is not an opinion...
- Jesus is not a truth – the Bible is not a truth – Jesus and the Word are Truth defined!
- There is only One Way – One Truth - One Bible - One God - Jesus Christ - **John 14:6**
- The Pharisees’ / Herodian’s question - is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar...
 - If Jesus answered ‘Yes’ – then the people would hate him...
 - Rome was a conquering nation – Jews hated Rome and hated their taxes!
 - If Jesus answered ‘No’ – the leaders could turn him over for treason...
 - He would be arrested for encouraging Jews not to pay their Roman taxes!
 - It seemed to be the perfect trap to set – a question with no good answer...
- Jesus answered – why do you test me - show me a coin...
 - Whose face and words are on the coin – they answered Caesar (*Rome*)...
 - Then give back (*restore - imperative*) to Caesar what is Caesar’s...
 - The idea being the money was already Caesar’s – his face his writing...
 - Should we pay taxes – look at a peso – whose picture...
 - Give back to the government what is theirs – **Roman 13:1-6**
 - But give to God what is God’s...
 - We were created in God’s image – we carry’s God’s writing (*the Word*)...
 - We are to give our lives back to the Lord – they are His anyways!
 - We are not our own – our lives are not ours to live as we choose...
 - **I Corinthians 6:20** – “You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
 - We were purchased with the highest of prices – the life of Jesus...
 - Our lives belong to Jesus – we should live in a way that glorifies Him!
- The Pharisees marveled – were amazed – by Jesus answer - and said no more...
- They had tried to trip Him by getting him to argue about politics – and failed...
- **2ND - THE SADDUCEE’S BIBLICAL QUESTION... VS. 27-38**
 - The 2nd group to come to Jesus was the Sadducees...
 - The Sadducees were the liberal religious group of the day...
 - More concerned with money / wealth / and power – than God or Heaven...
 - Kind of half way between a political group and a religious group...
 - Who deny there is a resurrection...
 - The Sadducees only believed in the Law of Moses - Genesis - Deuteronomy...
 - There is no mention of the Resurrection in the Law of Moses...
 - Therefore they rejected the idea of life after death and the resurrection...
 - Their question: Quoting from the Law of Moses – **Deuteronomy 25:5-6**
 - The Law states - a brother must marry his brother’s widow if there is no heir...
 - Their first-born son would then be considered the son of the dead brother...
 - The Sadducees pose a seemingly improbable conundrum – likely not a true story...
 - A wife’s husband died unable to give her children – so she married his brother...

- Then he died – so she married his brother – and so on through 7 brothers...
- Whose wife would the woman be in the resurrection...
- o Jesus corrected them - they were mistaken (*about 2 things*)...
 - 1st – About marriage in heaven – there is no marriage in heaven...
 - Apparently we are not married nor do we get married to others in heaven...
 - We will be equal to the angels – we will not BE angels – rather just like the angels...
 - In that we will no longer be able to die - just as angels cannot die...
 - And apparently angels do not get married – and neither will we in heaven
 - 2nd – About the resurrection – IT IS mentioned in the Law of Moses...
 - Moses showed in the burning bush the dead are raised...
 - **Exodus 3:6** - “I am the God (*present tense*) of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”
 - All 3 of these men died long ago – but God refers to them in the present tense!
 - God did not say to Moses - ‘I WAS the God of...’ - ‘He says I AM the God of...’
 - Meaning they are still alive – and God is the God of the living not the dead...
 - Proving the idea of the Resurrection from the Law of Moses!
 - Why were the Sadducees mistaken...
 - They did not know the Word of God – or the Power of God...
 - The Sadducees didn’t believe in their argument – didn’t believe in the resurrection
 - They saw the Bible as stories meant for a culture long ago – not for today...
 - There are many people who still say the same thing today – the Bible is not relevant
 - It was written 2000 years ago – and has nothing to offer to us today...
 - But they miss the Word of God – and the Power of God...
 - God does not change – and His Word is just as relevant today as then...
 - And the power of God is just as able to change and transform lives today!
- o Jesus had not only answered the Sadducees challenge...
 - He had disproven their theology - proven there is a resurrection...
 - They had tried to trip Him up showing the Bible was irrelevant - and failed!
- **3RD - THE SCRIBES QUESTION... vs. 39-40**
 - o The 3rd group to come at Jesus was the Scribes...
 - The Scribes were the copyist of day - there were no copy machines - no printing press
 - In the Bible they represented those educated (*had a degree*) in the Law of Moses...
 - They did not get along with the liberal Sadducees - more conservative - **Acts 23:8**
 - Seeing that Jesus had humbled the Sadducees - they approved of His answer...
 - o They also had a question: Which is the first commandment of all - **Mark 12:28**...
 - They assumed being right with God was about keeping the commands of God...
 - But in fact it is being right with God - that allows us to keep His commands!
 - o All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commands...
 - **Deuteronomy 6:5** - “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart...”
 - **Leviticus 19:18** – “...You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
 - Jesus point is if you Love the Lord – then you will be able to love your neighbor...
 - If you are loving God and loving your neighbor - you are fulfilling all the Law!
 - So many people think that if they are good enough God will accept them...

- But it is when God gets a hold of your life - changes your heart - you become good!
- The cart does not push the caribou - the caribou pushes the cart...
- Good works do not make us righteous - being right with God produces good works!
- o They tried to trip up Jesus on how to be right before God - and failed!
- o Jesus answers were so good - they did not dare to ask Him any more questions!
- JESUS QUESTION... LUKE 20:41 - 21:4
 - o Why do the Scribes say the Christ (*messiah/savior*) is the son of David - **II Samuel 7:27**
 - If the Messiah is the son of David – why does David call Him Lord – **Psalms 110:1**
 - It would be like saying a Father would call his Son – Lord – does not sound right...
 - The answer was the Son of David was God (*God and man*) – Emmanuel
 - The problem with all 3 groups was - they refused to believe Jesus was the Messiah!
 - o Jesus turned and addressed the multitudes who were standing by listening...
 - These religious leaders - had ulterior motives for everything they did...
 - Long robes (*religious clothes*) / greetings in the marketplace / best seats in church...
 - **John 12:43** – “They loved [agape] the praise of men more than the praise of God.”
 - The leaders had so much love for the praises of men – they cared nothing for God’s!
 - If a leader is seeking to please men – he is listening to men and not to God...
 - He becomes a leader who is tossed about by the whims of men – no direction...
 - He becomes the blind leading the blind – both fall into the ditch - **Matthew 15:4**
 - The religious leaders would take from those who had nothing...
 - A widow who had nothing to give – they would take the roof over her head...
 - Saying - God needs your money – you must give your tithes to the Lord...
 - Covering their ‘requests’ with the guise of spirituality – long prayers...
 - There are many who would take advantage of believers today – saying things like...
 - If you give us money – God will bless you back 2-fold – or more!
 - God needs your money – if you don’t give God will not bless you!
 - Shamelessly taking from those who have nothing – out of greed...
 - Misrepresenting God – as if God who created everything – needs your money...
 - God has reserved Greater judgment - a hotter place in hell - for these men!
 - o After Jesus had silenced the leaders - in His last public confrontation with them...
 - Jesus sat opposite the treasury - watching as people gave their money...
 - There were many there who were rich - who put in a lot of money...
 - But there was one poor widow who only put in 2 mites - about 50 centavos...
 - Jesus called the disciples and told them - she gave more than all the rich put together!
 - The rich gave out of their abundance - she out of her poverty - she gave all she had!
 - Giving to God is not about necessity - God does not need money - **II Corinthians 9:7**
 - And it is not about the quantity - giving a lot means nothing if it costs us nothing...
 - It is about sacrifice - giving from the heart - showing our Love for God!
 - o Political / Liberal / Religious - no just Jesus!
 - Where are we - are we ‘Political’ – caught up in the politics of the day...
 - Are we the ‘Liberal’ – looking to find a way to show the Bible is not relevant today...
 - Are we the ‘Religious’ – looking to rules and laws rather than to the Lord...

- Or do we see Jesus – God – Emmanuel – the savior of the World...
- Do we realize we have been bought with a price and are not our own...
- Learning about God – reading our Bible and seeing the Power of God...
- A changed heart - like the widow - showing good works because we believe in Jesus!