

LUKE 20:1-19

REVIEW...

- **LUKE 19:1-27 - ON THE WAY UP TO JERUSALEM...**
 - Jesus came to seek and save the lost - Zacchaeus...
 - Jesus gave the crowds the 'Parable of the Kingdom'...
 - They expected Jesus would set up His kingdom when He arrived in Jerusalem...
 - 1st - A King went to a far country - the Kingdom of God is in heaven...
 - 2nd - Before He left He gave his servants money to invest - we all have gifts...
 - 3rd - The citizens of the land refused to be ruled by the King...
- **LUKE 19:28-48 - ENTERING JERUSALEM...**
 - 1st - A very important place - the Mt. of Olives - Jesus came riding in on a donkey...
 - 2nd - A very important day - Palm Sunday - four days before the Passover...
 - While all the Jews were picking their lamb to be sacrificed - God choose His Lamb!
 - The Pharisees rebuked the disciples for worshipping - 'Even the stones will cry out'!
 - 3rd - The day the Jews were blinded - because they missed 'their day'...
 - Jesus expected them to know this day - Daniel 9:25 - April, 6th 32 A.D.
 - Because Israel missed Jesus - they were blinded - and Jerusalem would be destroyed...
 - 4th - The cleansing of the Temple - they had made a house of prayer into a den of thieves!

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS REJECTION OF JESUS... (4 THINGS)

- **1ST - THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHALLENGED... VS. 1-8**
 - Only 3 days before the crucifixion of Jesus - as Jesus was teaching in the Temple...
 - The Chief Priests / Scribes / and Elders confronted Jesus in the temple...
 - These 3 groups represented the Sanhedrin - the 'congress' or rulers of Israel...
 - They asked Jesus two questions about His 'cleansing of the Temple' the day before...
 - They demanded to know - 'By what authority (*power*) was Jesus doing these things?
 - And 'Who gave it to Him?' - because they were the only 'authority' in Israel!
 - They asked not looking for an answer – they were looking for a fight...
 - I love when people have real questions – they want to learn about Jesus...
 - I will spend as much time – anytime – when someone has a real question...
 - But there is a difference between a real question – and someone looking for a fight...
 - When someone comes up to you and starts to question you about your 'religion'...
 - Not wanting to learn about Jesus - but looking to argue / prove you wrong...
 - I have little patience for questions that are set ups for an argument...
 - Jesus did not buy their question – instead he said: 'I have one question for you...'
 - The Baptism of John – was it from Heaven or from men - ANSWER ME! (*Imperative*)
 - The Religious leaders had already asked John the same question – **John 1:19**
 - John had told them exactly whom he was – one who prepared the way for the Lord!
 - They knew John was sent from God – but still they had rejected him...
 - So they reasoned (*thought it through logically*) how to answer Jesus...

- If they said John's baptism was from Heaven – then why didn't they believe...
- If they said from men – they feared the people who believed John was a prophet...
- The people might even have killed them - “All the people will stone us...”
- They were trapped – knowing who John was – but having rejected him!
- So they lied to Jesus and told Him – ‘we don't know’...
- Therefore Jesus would not tell them by what authority He did things either!
 - People will always try to change the subject when you talk about Jesus...
 - They want to argue religion - what is the name of your church...
 - Try to argue over the most pointless issues - ‘no name on the side of the jeep’...
 - Do not even bother to give them an answer - instead take them back to Jesus!
 - You will quickly find either a chance to share the Gospel - or the discussion ends
- 2ND - THE PARABLE OF TWO SONS... MATTHEW 21:28-32
 - o Jesus continued: now listen to this story (*Imperative*) of a man who had two sons...
 - The 1st son was commanded to go and work in the Campo but he refused...
 - Afterwards he ‘repented’ and choose to go and work after all...
 - The 2nd son was also commanded to go and work – and he answered, ‘Yes, Lord!’...
 - But then he did not go and work after all - maybe went to play basketball...
 - It was the 1st son who was obedient - not in his words - but in his actions!
 - o Jesus point – it is not about what you say – but about your actions!
 - The Religious leaders said all the right things – they said, ‘Yes, Lord!’
 - But in the end their actions did not line up with their words...
 - If your neighbor tells you then won 1 million pesos - but still has no rice to eat...
 - People call tell you anything - but in the end you would want proof / evidence...
 - We may say all the right things to sound like a Christian...
 - You might come to church every Sunday - but if you are still living like a heathen...
 - Just like being in a poultry does not make you a chicken...
 - Neither does being in a church make you a Christian...
 - It is not about what we say – it is about the actions from our lives!
 - Tax collectors / sinners / and prostitutes may have said they would not obey God...
 - But if in the end they repented – then they would be the children of God!
 - There may be fewer ‘pastors’ in heaven and more criminals than you would expect!
 - Maybe we refused to obey our Heavenly Father in the past - rebelled against God...
 - We might have been the 2nd son - wanting to go and do our own thing...
 - But when we choose to follow Jesus - we were no longer defined by our past...
 - We become the faithful son – the one who does the will of the Father!
 - John the Baptist came showing the way of to get to heaven - pointing to Jesus...
 - The Religious leaders did not want to believe but the sinners did!
 - Even when the religious leaders saw that – they still did not believe...
 - They were full of hypocrisy – saying one thing but doing another...
- 3RD - THE PARABLE OF THE SUGARCANE FIELD (*VINEYARD*)... vs. 9-14
 - o Jesus gave a 2nd parable to reveal the motives of the religious leaders hearts...

- o A certain landowner planted a sugar cane field...
 - He then went abroad for a long time - leaving hired men to take care of the Campo...
 - The Landowner of the vineyard is none other than God Almighty...
 - The Campo refers to the nation of Israel – and the Kingdom of God...
 - **Isaiah 5:7** – “For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel...”
 - The hired workers were the religious leaders of Israel...
 - They were supposed to watch after God’s people – care for them...
 - Because God desired Israel – and His Kingdom – to bear fruit for Him!
 - **John 15:8** – “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...”
- o As the harvest drew near the owner sent servants (*doulos*) to receive the fruit...
 - The hired men beat them - mistreated them - and chased them away empty handed!
 - The servants who were sent were the prophets of the Old Testament...
 - They were sent by God to encourage Israel to turn back to God - bear fruit for God...
 - Including John the Baptist – who was the forerunner of Jesus!
 - **Acts 7:52** – “Name one prophet your ancestors didn’t persecute!”
- o Finally the owner sent His only son – saying, ‘they will respect My Son...’
 - But the hired men said – if we kill the son the sugar cane will be ours!
 - So they killed him – and cast him out of the Campo - **Hebrews 13:12**!
 - The Son is none other than Jesus Christ – the heir to the Kingdom of God...
 - The religious leaders never wanted to serve God or His people (*hired laborers*)...
 - And Jesus was a threat to their control over the people - their ability to make money!
- o Their problem was in their heart...
 - The Religious leaders were not there to tell the people the truth about God...
 - Were not interested in living a life showing an example of how to live for God...
 - They were only interested in what they could take from the people of God!
 - A mirror never lies – our lives are the mirror of our heart...
 - The actions of the leaders showed what was truly in their heart - who they were...
 - What we say and do reflect what is in really in our heart!
 - **Luke 6:45** - “For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”
 - **Matthew 12:53** - “For a tree [person] is known by its fruit [actions].”
 - If we are looking to Jesus – then Jesus will be reflected in our words and actions
 - If we are only looking out for ourselves – then our lives will show it!
- **4TH - THE CHOICE... vs. 15-19**
 - o What will the owner do to these hired men - He will destroy them...
 - Then He will then give the Campo to others who will give Him of the fruit...
 - The Religious leaders replied - ‘God forbid - may it never happen...’
 - But Israel had been called to be a light to the world - **Zachariah 4:11-14**
 - They were supposed to bear fruit for God - and teach others about the Lord...
 - Because Israel missed Jesus - God set them aside for a season - **Romans 11:25**
 - God instead gave the Campo / His Kingdom - to the church - to bear fruit for God!
 - We are called to bare good fruit for God - what kind of fruit comes from our lives...
 - **John 15:8** - “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...”

- When we bare good fruit - living our life for God in Words / Actions / and Heart...
- We are a light to the world - and bring glory to our Father in heaven...
- **John 15:6** - "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch..."
- But if like the Jewish leader we seek to serve ourselves and not the Lord...
- We can be removed from the Campo just like the Jewish leaders were...
- o The stone that the builders rejected - **Psalms 118:22**...
 - Jesus quoted from the Psalms regarding a story from the first Temple of Solomon...
 - All of the stones of the Temple were finished in the quarry - **1 Kings 6:7**
 - The first stone sent to the building site was the chief cornerstone...
 - In construction – the most important piece – sets the angles and location...
 - When the workers received the stone – they were not ready – set it aside – forgot
 - The stone the builders rejected – became the chief cornerstone!
 - The Religious leaders had rejected Jesus Christ...
 - He was destined to become the Chief cornerstone in the Church of God!
 - There are only 2 choices...
 - We can be like the 2nd son - the tax collectors & harlots – the sinners...
 - o Who see their need for salvation – fall broken on Jesus...
 - o Who repent of their sin – and fall broken on the Grace of Jesus...
 - o If we see our words and lives reflecting a heart that is selfish - fall on Jesus!
 - o **Psalms 51:17** – "The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise."
 - o He can change our hearts – give us new life! Abundant life!
 - o If we know other people who cannot be trusted – always have ulterior motives
 - o People whose lives (*in spite of their words*) do not reflect Jesus...
 - o Don't be frustrated with their words or actions – the problem is their heart...
 - o We need to pray for God to change their heart!
 - Or we can be like the 1st son - like the religious leaders...
 - o And Jesus will fall on you – and you will be ground into powder...
 - o Full of ulterior motives, hypocrisy in actions, and selfish motives in the heart...
 - o In the end Jesus will fall in judgment – we will be scattered and lost...
 - o Both in this life – and for eternal life as well...
- o The Chief Priests and Pharisees knew Jesus was speaking of them
 - Yet they did not do anything to Him (*but they wanted to!*)...
 - Not because they feared God - but they did nothing because they feared the crowd...
 - Sad that these men were more concerned about the moment – then eternity
 - If we are more concerned about what people think of us – than what God thinks...
 - It is a good sign we need heart surgery – we need to fall broken on Jesus!