

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

## Day 1- Read Luke 20

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 20:25 "He said to them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.'"*

## Day 2- Luke 20:1-8

1. It is only days before Jesus will be crucified. What is Jesus doing according to verse 1?

2. The religious leaders are desperately searching for something that they could use to have Jesus arrested. The day before, Jesus had asserted his kingly, Messianic authority over the temple by cleansing it from all the corrupt selling that was going on. With this on their minds the Pharisees and Scribes ask him a question that he has answered over and over throughout his ministry and they knew what he would say. How is it apparent in verses 5-6 that the Pharisees are not searching for truth?

-In light of this fact how did Jesus respond in verse 8?

Scholar's Note: "To answer a question with another question was accepted rabbinic practice, the idea being to force the questioner to consider the issue at a deeper level. "<sup>1</sup>

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*John 1:29, 34 "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!.. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

-The "baptism of John" that Jesus mentions in verse 4, signifies John's whole ministry as the forerunner of Jesus. What did John testify to that the religious leaders would not believe?

3. (Just to name a few) how have we seen Jesus display his authority over:

Hell (Luke 4:36, 8:28-33)-

Creation (Luke 8:22-25)-

Life and death (8:52-56,12:5)

Sin (Luke 5:24)-

The physical effects of a sin-sick world (Luke 5:13, 7:7-8,10, 18:35-43)-



Jesus had stated that his authority came from God (John 12:49, 14:10) and he had remarkably and powerfully demonstrated his authority over and over again. We marvel to see Jesus' authority displayed in his miracles, but we sometimes bristle at Jesus' authority over our lives.

It is comforting and joyous to embrace Jesus as our rescuer and Savior, but do we find the same comfort and joy in embracing him as our Lord and King? If Jesus is truly our Savior, then he must also be our King with the right to rule our lives.

- ◆ Do you view the Bible as God's authoritative word?
- ◆ What are the issues where you struggle against God's authority in your personal life?
- ◆ What is the root sin of pushing back against God's authority in our lives?
- ◆ Do you weigh your own reasoning and emotions more heavily than God's authoritative word in your understanding of homosexuality, sexual purity, drunkenness, church discipline...?
- ◆ Martin Luther said that some people "do not trust God unless he arranges his works according to their way of thinking so that faith would no longer be necessary." When things do not seem to add up in your way of thinking to the way God has ordered them, how does faith help you submit to God's rule in your life?
- ◆ What comfort and joy is there in embracing God's rule and authority in your life?

### Day 3- Luke 20:9-18

4. Draw a line connecting the correct answers:

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| -What does the vineyard in Jesus' parable represent? | The religious leaders |
| -Who does the owner of the vineyard represent?       | Jesus                 |
| -Who do the tenants represent?                       | The prophets of God   |
| -Who do the slaves/servants represent?               | Israel                |
| -Who does the owner's son represent?                 | God                   |

5. What characteristics does the owner of the vineyard demonstrate?

6. What was Jesus predicting, in verse 14, that the religious leaders would do to him in order to keep their authority and power?

7. What two things does the rejection of God's authority lead to in verse 16?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Jesus responds to their protestations in verse 17, with a well-known Messianic passage from Psalm 118. What is Jesus, who is the "stone," telling the religious leaders, who are the "builders," by quoting this Messianic verse?

Scholar's Note: "The chief corner stone was the most important part of a stone building, because it properly set every angle for construction. Builders knew that without an absolutely perfect cornerstone, the entire building would drift out of plumb."<sup>2</sup>

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*1 Peter 2:6-8*

*"For it stands in scripture:*

*'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen  
and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'*

*So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,*

*'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'*

*And*

*'A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense...'"*

- What does it mean to stumble or fall on the stone according to these verses?

9. What will happen to those who do not believe Jesus and reject his authority according to verse 18?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

*John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."*

- What does the stone that crushes the unbelieving and rebellious, represent?

Day 4- Luke 20:19-26

10. What is so ironic and sad about verse 19?

11. What was the question in verse 22 designed to do?

Scholar's Note: "The goal of the spies' question, then, was to force Jesus into taking a position that would entrap him. If, on one hand, Jesus said that people should not pay the tax, then the scribes and priests could report him to the Romans, who did not hesitate to eliminate anyone who might seem like a threat to the peace of the empire. But if, on the other hand, he said that they should pay the tax, then he might well be seen as a traitor by the people of Israel."<sup>3</sup>

Scholar's Note: "The coin in question would have had Tiberius Caesar's image on it and have borne the inscription, "Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Son of the Divine Augustus."<sup>4</sup> "...ancient coins were actually understood to be the property of the person whose picture and inscription were on them."<sup>5</sup>

12. According to Jesus in verse 25, if it is right to give to Caesar the coin bearing his image, then it is right to give to God the things bearing his image. What are those things? (See Gen. 1:27, Romans 11:36 for help)

13. How does Jesus brilliantly confirm the establishment of government while at the same time confirming God's dominion and transcendence?

Picture and Ponder: "Today historians universally say that Jesus' words [in verse 25] have been the single most influential political statement ever made. It has been decisive and determinative in shaping Western civilization."<sup>6</sup>



Jesus was telling his opponents that it was fine to give to Caesar, who pretends to be God, his little coin, but the One True God, whose image you bear, merits you giving your whole life to Him. God doesn't want just our money, he claims total ownership of us, because he created us and we bear his image. Caesar may have been temporary king of the Roman Empire, but God is the eternal King of the entire universe. Caesar may have been due his coin, but God is due our very lives and everything belongs to him.

To give God our whole selves, means there is nothing that is exempt, nothing we hold back for ourselves. Our hopes, desires, dreams, thoughts, motives, emotions, affections, identity, needs, fears, inadequacies, weaknesses all belong to him. It is when we put our whole selves in God's capable hands, so that he redeems and restores every part of us, that we become the people he created us to be.

- ◆ Why do we hold back certain parts of ourselves from God?
- ◆ What do you hold back from God?
- ◆ How does letting God have kingship over the inward life affect his kingship over the outward life (time, money, talent)?

#### Day 5- Luke 20:27-47

Vs. 27-38

14. The Sadducees, (who were the rivals of the Scribes and Pharisees-see Acts 23:6-8) by concocting this complicated scenario in verses 28-33, were trying to prove the irrationality of life after death (resurrection). How does Jesus inform them, in verse 35, that this age is not like the coming age of the resurrection?

Scholar's Note: "Marriage and procreation are of primary necessity in mortal, earthly life so human life can go on. But since there is no death in Heaven, marriage will be superseded."<sup>7</sup>

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

*Exodus 3:6 "And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God."*

-This is the verse Jesus referenced in verse 37, where God says, **I am** the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob— not, **I was** the God...What point is Jesus making in verse 38?

For Discussion: What are the implications of not believing in the resurrection?

Vs.39-47

Scholar's Note: "The scribes were a class of learned men who made the systematic study of the law and its exposition their professional occupation. They are generally called teachers of the law."<sup>8</sup>

15. In verses 41-44, Jesus is showing the scribes that their earthly view of the Messiah (the Christ) is wrong. They understood the Messiah to be a human son (descendant) of David. Jesus is pointing out to them, using Messianic Scripture that they knew so well, how Messiah is much more than merely human. Jesus is essentially asking them, why would King David call his human son, "my Lord"? The inference is that he wouldn't, so then he must be more than just a human son. He must be God's divine son as well. Why do you think the Scribes, who were experts in their knowledge of the Scriptures, didn't answer?

16. What words would you use to describe the Scribes from Jesus warning in verses 46-47a?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

*James 3:1 "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness."*

-Why do you think the Scribes will "receive the greater condemnation" according to Jesus in verse 47b?

-What privilege do teachers of God's word have?



The Sadducees and the Scribes, though theological rivals, had the same fatal problem. They did not believe who Jesus was. In Mark 12:24, Jesus tells the Sadducees that they are wrong about the resurrection because they don't know the Scriptures or the power of God. The Scribes on the other hand were experts at the Scriptures, but they read with hardened hearts and through the lens of their own desires.

It is dangerous to not know what God's word says, it is also dangerous to read God's word with a hard heart, only believing and obeying the things that fit into your paradigm about God and life.

- ◆ What do you struggle with in God's word that doesn't fit into your paradigm of God or His ways? (Are you willing to say to God that he is wrong and you are right?)

- ◆ How can you approach God’s word with an open heart to what he says and not see it through the lens of your own thinking?
  
- ◆ What things do you know to be true about God that can help lead you to trust and obey him with the things you struggle with?
  
- ◆ Many people struggle with the desire to be in God’s word. If that is the case with you, do you come to God with that struggle or do you tend to ignore God out of guilt? Study of the Bible is not an end in itself. It is a means of grace God has given us to help us know him. Come to him with your lack of desire and pray through Psalm 119. Start with verse 18, and 36-37... *“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. Incline my heart to your testimonies and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.”*

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 25066-25067). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015),p.700

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Tenney, Merrill C. and Douglas, J.D (1987) *New International Bible Dictionary*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI. p.906

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