

Confrontation in Jerusalem

Lesson #6

Luke 20:1-26

According to God's Law (The Torah), all males 13 years of age and older were required to go up to Jerusalem three times a year to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Passover was one of the three festivals and because it was also a celebration, most men brought their entire family along causing the population of Jerusalem to grow to over two million. Jesus used this Passover as an opportunity to teach Jews who had arrived in Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire. As more and more people began to gather around him, the religious leaders, who had also gathered from all over the Empire, saw Jesus as a threat to their authority; and so it was that this particular Tuesday became a day filled with confrontation.

Confrontation #1, Jesus' Authority Questioned - Luke 20:1-8

1. Using Luke 20:1:
 - Where was Jesus located?
 - What was he doing?
 - Who confronted him?
2. What was their challenge to Jesus? (Luke 20:2)
3. Using good rabbinic teaching style, Jesus didn't answer directly but asked them a question in turn. What was the question Jesus used to lead them to the answer of their original question? (Luke 20:3-4)
4. John the Baptist was a direct descendant from the High Priest Aaron. (Luke 1:5-23) In other words, he was one of them. However, before they answered Jesus' question, they discussed among themselves how they should answer. How did that discussion go based upon Luke 20:5 & 6?

5. After joint counsel, how did they finally answer Jesus' question? (Luke 20:7)
6. What, then, was Jesus' answer to their original question? (Luke 20:8)
7. What do you think Jesus was revealing in this confrontation?

Parable of the Self-Serving Tenants – Luke 20:9-19

8. Turning to the crowd that had gathered to listen, Jesus illustrated his point by telling them a parable. Review: Parables are stories using every day life to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. What was Jesus generally teaching about when he used parables? (Refer to NT Foundation Lesson #1, page 8.)
9. This parable was about a vineyard, its owner and tenant farmers. According to verse 9, what did Jesus say the owner had done?
10. When it was time to harvest, the owner sent a servant to the tenants to get some of the fruit grown in his vineyard. What happened when the servant arrived at the vineyard? (Luke 20:10b)
11. The owner then sent two more servants; how did that go? (Luke 20:11 & 12)
12. Notice the attitude of the owner in verse 13; what did he hope for?
13. Did the owner feel confident that his next attempt would be any more successful? (Luke 20:13)

14. When the tenants “saw” the owner’s son, what did they do? (Luke 20:14 & 15a)
15. As a result of their action, what did Jesus say that the owner would do to the tenants? (Luke 20:16a)
16. The listening crowd was shocked by Jesus’ story. What was their reaction? (Luke 20:16b)
17. Then, “Jesus looked directly at them.” Who is the “them?” (Luke 20:1b)
18. What question did he ask to drive his point home? (Luke 20:17 & 18)
19. Did they get the point? (Luke 20:19a)
20. Were they successful? (Luke 20:19b)

Confrontation #2, Roman Taxes – Luke 20:20-26

21. After an unsuccessful first attempt at confronting Jesus, what did the religious leader do next? (Luke 20:20)
22. “Pretending to be honest,” how did these new questioners set Jesus up in hopes of “catching” him? (Luke 20:21)
23. What was their loaded question? (Luke 20:22)
24. Seeing “through their duplicity,” how did Jesus answer their question? (Luke 20:24)

25. The answer to Jesus' question was obvious and truthful. How did Jesus use their answer to turn their trap around? (Luke 20:25)

26. What was their reaction to his answer? (Luke 20:26b)

27. What did these new questioners discover about Jesus? (Luke 20:26a)