**Luke X Jesus In Jerusalem**

**Conflict in Jerusalem**

Last week: Jesus and the outcast (cont): Zaccheus, and Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Zacchaeus the ultimate Jewish outsider, as a chief tax collector.

Jesus: This is my kind of person. He may be the ultimate Jewish outsider, but he is humble, he is zealous, and he is ready to repent.

Here and now I give ½ of all I possess to God and will pay back x4 all I have cheated.

Jesus: I am going to your house!

For us: If we are humble, zealous, and ready to repent, Jesus wants to go to your house.

But… “all the people” were unhappy with Jesus.

Then we saw Jesus actually entering Jerusalem on “Palm Sunday,” He came from Bethany, down the Mount of Olives, up to the temple, and entered directly into the temple grounds, fulfilling many prophecies—reversing 2 Samuel 15:13-17, 30 (David leaves Jerusalem, traveling up Mt. of Olives) and Ezekiel 11:22-23 (God abandons the temple), as well as fulfilling the preenactment of Zech 9:9-10 (Messiah/King comes on a colt, the foal of a donkey) and 2 Samuel 6:12-15 (David dances as he brings God/the ark into Jerusalem)

Then, Jesus goes directly into the temple, clearing it out, preparing a place so that we can enter a purified temple and the presence of God. Fulfilling Zech 14:21 No more merchants in God’s temple!

This week: Messiah has arrived. Conflict in Jerusalem. We see Jesus’ wisdom.

Luke 20:1-8 Jesus vs the chief priests and the teachers of the Law.

v. 1 Jesus doing a good thing—he is preaching the gospel.

Luke 20:2 By what authority? Imagine the gall, asking God by what authority he makes demands on us.

Of course, that is what all of us did at one time, did we not? We said, “Who are you, O God, to demand such and such of me.” Then God said (Romans 9: “Who are you, Oh man, to talk back to God.”

Jesus, the wiliest teacher ever, asks them a question. “John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They are in a quandary. John the Baptist is still VERY popular—especially in Jerusalem. His having been martyred by Herod probably only increased his popularity. He is more popular that Jesus!! (kind of like the Beatles who said the same. In March, 1966 John Lennon said, “We are more popular than Jesus now.” Setting of a firestorm—with people burning Beatles albums, etc. He later apologized and said he had no intention of comparing the Beatles to Jesus. But… what he said was true.)

Even 28 years later, when Paul is in Ephesus, he is still meeting disciples of John the Baptist!

Even today there are 100,000 Mandaeans who accept John the Baptist as the greatest prophet.

So, they cannot say “of human origin”!

But, they cannot say yes “of God”, because John testified concerning Jesus.

Instead…. v. 7 We don’t know. Jesus: Then I will not dignify your cynical request with an answer. (Proverbs 26:4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly)

Wow, Jesus!!!! That was cool. Jesus is the only one with the courage to answer the question. JTB is of God!

Luke 20:9-19 The Parable of the Tenants. If Jesus is trying to win popularity contests, this is a very poor strategy.

v. 9 A man planted a vineyard.

Q: Who is this man? God!

Q: Who are the renters? Israel! (us?)

As with the Parable of the 10 Talents/10 Minahs, God expects is to use the gifts he has given us to bear fruit—to build up his Kingdom.

v. 10 He sent a servant to us to ask us to show the profit we have made from our vineyard. What have you done with the precious gift known as the gospel?

v. 10 But we beat him and sent him home empty-handed. These “servants” are the prophets: Elijah, Elishah, Isaiah sawn in two by Menasseh.

v. 11-12 He sent more servants. They threw Jeremiah into a well. They ignored Ezekiel.

v. 13 I will send my Son. Jesus. SURELY they will listen to him and begin to pay rent!!!

v. 14 Let’s kill him. Some in the crowd were in on the plot to arrest and execute Jesus. How did they feel hearing this parable?

Ans: They led him out of Jerusalem, to Golgotha, where they killed him.

v. 15-16. A prophecy of the events of AD 70 (also prophesied in Daniel 9:26b-27)

This reminds me of Acts 2:23 You, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. Acts 2:36 God has made this Jesus, this Son the owner sent, whom you crucified, both Lord and Saviour.

Folks: This parable is about the Jews. But it is also about us. God sent people into our lives, and he sent Jesus. What will you do with Jesus? Will you welcome Him? Will you bring him the fruit of a devoted life?

v. 17 Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22 The “builders” are the Jews, and Jesus is the cornerstone (Eph 2:20)

v. 18 Let us not “fall” on that stone!!!!

v. 19 The chief priests and teachers decide to go out and fulfill the prophecy ASAP. How ironic!!!

Luke 20:21-26 The “spies” (“they” are the teachers of the Law/Pharisees) are hoping to trap Jesus with their superior wisdom, so they pretend to be sincere. Do you think Jesus was fooled?

So many of our friends are like this. They think they are so smart. Much smarter than those ignorant authors of the Bible!!! They may assume you are ignorant as well… The Bible is full of contradictions! The Bible has dozens of blatant historical errors!!! No intelligent person—especially a scientist—could ever take the Bible seriously!!!

 Should we pay taxes to Caesar? Another quandary!

Yes: The people will reject Jesus. The will refuse to follow him. He is a friend of Rome, our oppressor!

No: They will be able to get him arrested by the Roman authorities.

Jesus is between a rock and a hard place. But no!

Jesus: Show me the denarius coin. Whose image is on it?

Give the Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.

In other words, my kingdom is not of this world. Mine is a spiritual kingdom. I do not get involved in politics. Politics, even Jewish politics, is of the world.

Send your tax money to “the man,” but give your loyalty and love to God/Jesus. Put your real treasures in heaven. The government does not own you! Jesus does.

Q: Do you render unto God what is God’s? (time, energy, heart, loyalty)

Jesus was a revolutionary but he was not a rebel. Jesus did not incite a rebellion. Jesus is not all that concerned with what political group is in power. His kingdom is not of this world! He is in the business of saving souls, both in this life and in eternity.

v. 26 Even his enemies were “astonished” at his wisdom.

Q: Are you “astonished” at Jesus—his wisdom, his patience, his mercy, his compassion, his holiness, his God-likeness? Does he amaze you? He does me!

Luke 20:27-33 The Pharisees and teachers of the law took their swing at Jesus. Now the arrogant Sadducees take their turn. We are so much smarter than the Pharisees. They make Jesus’ enemies look bad. But now the really smart opponents have arrived. We are more educated, more sophisticated than those religious guys. We have Jesus on this one!!!

 A trap question about divorce and remarriage.

Such a typically Jewish thing to do—to argue over the arcane details of interpretation of the Law.

v. 27 They say there is no resurrection. They only accept the Pentateuch as their Scripture. If you read only the Law of Moses, final resurrection is foreshadowed and prefigured many times, but it is not taught directly. (Daniel 12:2-4 does)

The Sadducees are referring to Levirate marriage. Deuteronomy 25:5-10.

This law did two things:

1. It allowed the blood line of the older brother to not be ended “so his name would not be blotted out.”

2. It allowed for the widowed woman, who would otherwise be family-less, to be taken care of.

That the Jews took this seriously is proved by the story of Ruth (Ruth 3:9-4:10 Ruth and Boaz who is her kinsman-redeemer. And of course, Jesus is our kinsman-redeemer)

v. 33 Gotcha Jesus!!!! Whose wife will she be in the resurrection. (Remember, they do not believe in the resurrection, so they are trying to trap him as they also trap the Pharisees) Apparently, no Pharisee had yet provided a sufficient answer to this trap-question. Sadducees used this unanswered question as proof the resurrection is not real. So there! We have you Jesus!

But Jesus is SOOOOO wise!!!

Sadducees, your doctrine is off!

Jesus, wisely, uses the Pentateuch (not one of the other 32 books of the OT) to prove that there is a resurrection. YHWH: I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (who had died hundreds of years previously) They are still in existence. The resurrection is real.

v. 39 Well said!

The result: v. 40 “No one dared to ask him any more questions.” Good job, Jesus. You are the man!!!

Q: Do you think you are smarter than Jesus? Than God?

As we end our series of sermons, Jesus has completed his ministry of teaching, preaching and healing.

He has proclaimed good news to the poor. Physically and spiritually.

He has proclaimed freedom for the prisoners—including those enslaved to sin.

He has provided healing to the blind (and the spiritually blind)

He has set the oppressed free

He has proclaimed the Lord’s favor

Today, he has brought salvation to the people.

He has reached out to the poor, to women, to the outcast, the Samaritan and the chief tax collector.

He set out resolutely for Jerusalem.

And now he has arrived in Jerusalem, has cleared the temple, and has defeated all the pretentious arguments of the religious hipocrites.

Now, he is preparing to give his life for your salvation.

Q: Will you set out resolutely for Jerusalem with Jesus? You will die there! But through Jesus you will bring good news to the poor, freedom for the captives, healing for the blind and release for the oppressed.

Don’t count on the world—even the religious world—to applaud you.

But you are with King Jesus—the man!!! He answers all the questions.

Today is the day of the Lord’s favor!