



# **STORIES OF LIFE!**

**The Gospel of Luke**

## **A Reasonable Story!**

**Luke 20:1-19**

**Message #59 of 70 – S849**

**Sermon given on June 23, 2019**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# A Reasonable Story!

*Luke 20:1-19*

## Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 20**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- As a young man I considered myself a rational being
- I believed knowledge and logic had the answers to all of life's questions
- This was one of the things that caused me to take so long to come to faith
- It seemed to me that Christianity was about turning off your brain and living in some mystical realm of belief in something you can't see or prove
- I eventually came to realize that wasn't true
- God gave us an intellect because He wants us to engage it in our relationship with Him and each other **Isaiah 1:18**

**"Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD...**

- As Christians, we ought to be reasoning and reasonable people

**Reasonable: agreeable to or in accord with reason or sound judgment; logical; capable of rational behavior, decision**

- Sadly, I sense that our culture is becoming less and less reasonable
- I enjoy having conversations with people who view the world differently than I do – it challenges me to clarify my own view of the world
- The problem is that sometimes people don't want to be reasonable
- In our text for today, Jesus is going to dialogue with some people and try to reason with them
- And we will see some things that we can use as we interact with people in the world
- Let's pray and then see how we might be more reasonable
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **A Reasonable Story!**

- Last time Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey just as the Scriptures predicted on the exact date that had been predicted
- The multitudes sense the importance of this and respond in a way that communicates that they believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior King of Israel
- Later Jesus goes into the temple area and overturns the tables of those who are commercializing the worship of God
- **Luke 20:1-2**
- There is something going on in the background of this account
- The Jewish Passover was just days away
- In Exodus 12 – the people of Israel were told to select a lamb
- They were to inspect it for four days **Exodus 12:5**  
**Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.**
- As these leaders of Israel come to confront Jesus – unbeknownst to them they are examining the spotless Lamb of God
- And in a few days, they will sacrifice Him for the sins of the whole world
- They are looking for defects, blemishes, and sin in Him who is perfect
- Eventually they will simply lie and fabricate a reason to kill Jesus
- These leaders come to Christ – where did you get this authority?
- Jesus knew their motives were not pure
- **Luke 20:3-4**
- Jesus always asked great questions – wanted them to reason with Him
- Wanted them to examine what they believe and confront them with truth
- John the Baptist was ordained by God to be the forerunner of the Messiah
- He preached a message of turning from sin and returning to God and baptized those who did so
- **Luke 20:5-7**
- Many in the crowds around Jesus had gone to the Jordan River and been baptized by John – they believed John was a prophet of God
- But the leaders had rejected John’s call to repentance, and then stood by silently as Herod had him arrested and beheaded

- To endorse John the Baptist would be to endorse Jesus because John pointed Him out as the Messiah
- To the leaders, Jesus was just a carpenter from the despised city of Nazareth – He couldn't possibly be the Messiah
- **Luke 20:8**
- They weren't being reasonable
- And so, Jesus did something we might be better served if we did with unreasonable people – He refused to engage with them
- The internet is an amazing part of the modern world that we live in
- It is a powerful tool to communicate with the whole world
- We all know that it is being used by some to communicate hate and promote gross darkness
- Personally, I am using it to try to bring light to the darkness and to encourage and strengthen the body of Christ
- I regularly encounter people on the internet who don't share my beliefs – and some fascinating conversations have taken place
- Anytime someone shines the light into the darkness, someone will try to resist the light
- On the internet, these are called trolls

**Internet Trolls: a troll is a person who starts quarrels or upsets people on the Internet to distract and sow discord by posting inflammatory and digressive, extraneous, or off-topic messages in an online community (such as a newsgroup, forum, chat room, or blog) with the intent of provoking readers into displaying emotional responses and normalizing tangential discussion, whether for the troll's amusement or a specific gain.**

- These leaders are trying to distract Jesus and trap Him into saying something they can accuse Him of
- Don't fight with trolls **Matthew 7:6**  
**Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.**
- You can't reason with unreasonable people
- The leaders are being unreasonable, and so, Jesus refuses to engage with them, and instead, turns to the people who are listening
- **Luke 20:9**
- The 'certain man' = God the Father – the 'vineyard' = the Land of Israel – the 'vinedressers' = the leaders of Israel
- **Luke 20:10-12**

- The ‘servants’ = the prophets God sent to the leaders of Israel to call them to a right relationship with God
- Saying that historically, the leaders of Israel have rejected and persecuted the prophets God sent to them
- Stephen said that right before the leaders of Israel stoned him **Acts 7:51-53**

**You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.**

- The leaders who confronted Jesus at the beginning of the chapter are still there
- **Luke 20:13-15a**
- The ‘beloved son’ = Jesus
- God sent Jesus, His beloved Son, to preach the gospel to the vine-dressers, the people and leaders of Israel
- In just a couple of days the crowd will cry out, ‘Crucify Him!’ and He will be led out of the city of Jerusalem and killed
- Jesus then describes the reasonable response of the Father
- **Luke 20:15b-16a**
- This probably is pointing to the destruction of the city of Jerusalem in 70AD and the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Jews by the Romans
- That seems unreasonable to those who are listening
- **Luke 20:16b-18**
- The stone = Jesus – the ‘builders’ = leaders of Israel
- As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the people shouted out **Psalm 118:26**  
**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!**
- The Pharisees told Jesus to rebuke them because they were identifying Him as the Messiah
- Jesus told them no, because it was supposed to happen
- The rejection of the leaders of Israel was predicted in that same **Psalm 118:22**

**The stone *which* the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

- The chief cornerstone – or capstone or keystone – is the most important part of a building – built upon it, orients it, finished it  
**Ephesians 2:19-22**

**Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**

- Jesus is either the foundation of your life or He is the stone you will stumble over – speaking of the coming Messiah **Isaiah 8:14-15**

**He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken, be snared and taken.**

- Concludes by saying that stumbling over Jesus leads to judgment
- The leaders understand what Jesus is saying
- **Luke 20:19**
- Jesus senses that these leaders cannot be reasoned with
- And so, He warns them of the fate they are headed toward
- God is reasonable and He made us to be reasonable and He calls to use the reason He gave us to reach out to reasonable people and share the gospel with them
- If you are faithful to do that – you will encounter unreasonable people
- If you do encounter an unreasonable person, encourage them to be reasonable
- If they persist in their unreasonableness – warn them of the consequences of being unreasonable and then move on
- Don't waste the precious gospel that is entrusted to you on someone who will trample it and then try to tear you to pieces
- Trolls will be trolls – haters will hate – don't fight with trolls – trust them to God – let Him handle them
- And Christians – don't be haters – don't be trolls – let them see the love of Christ and the truth of His Word
- I started this message saying God invites us to come and reason together with Him
- I marvel at the thought of that – Almighty God wants to talk with me

- Brothers and sisters, God is inviting us to reason with Him so that we are better able to reason with others
- There are a lot of unreasonable people in this world
- But, for me, if my life can be used to reach even one person with the gospel lived out of my life or through my words – then I am willing to kiss a thousand trolls to find one reasonable person who needs Jesus
- **Pray!**