



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

Getting the Story Right!

Luke 20:19-38

Message #60 of 70 – S850

Sermon given on June 30, 2019



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Getting the Story Right!

Luke 20:19-38

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 20**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- As humans, we are designed to relate to stories
- We use stories to describe events, people, places, memories
- It is one of the most powerful ways to communicate
- If you can effectively tell a story, you can influence people
- Some people are good at keeping details straight
- Others are good at painting a visual image – others communicate emotion well
- We also tell stories based on our perspective and understanding
- Any two or more can view the same event, but they will tell the story of that event differently
- When telling our stories, our desire should be truth
- Our stories reveal what is inside of us
- We need to get our stories right
- I had a conversation with Monte on Thursday and one of the things he talked about was ‘We only have this one life!’
- I am so looking forward to heaven and eternal life with Jesus
- But I also want to get this life right
- In today’s text, we will look at a couple of groups of people who come to question Jesus’ story
- They end up being told that it is them that needs to get their story right
- Let’s pray and then see how we might be work on our story
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Getting the Story Right!**
- Last time a group of religious and civil leaders came to question Jesus’ authority

- He deftly deflects their question with a question of His own
- He then tells a parable that accuses them of fighting against God and rejecting Him as the Messiah – predicting His impending death
- That doesn't go over so well with the Jewish leaders
- **Luke 20:19-20**
- Matthew and Mark's gospels indicate that the spies were a combination of Pharisees and Herodians
- Pharisees were a strict sect of Judaism that prided itself in following the commands of God – very religious
- The Herodians were Jews who had aligned themselves with the pagan governor Herod – profiting materially and politically
- These two groups couldn't have been more different – hated each other – joined forces to deal with the carpenter from Nazareth
- May have come with the pretense of Jesus mediating between them
- **Luke 20:21-22**
- They begin with insincere flattery that Jesus saw right through
- This question was one of the hot topics in the culture – much like the issues of abortion and gender identity are in our culture today
- Rome had conquered Israel and compelled the Jews to pay taxes to Caesar, the ruler of the Roman Empire
- The question was meant to force Jesus into a dilemma
- If He answered 'Yes', the Pharisees would condemn Jesus as disloyal to Israel – if 'No', the Herodians would condemn Jesus to the governor who would arrest Him for insurrection
- **Luke 20:23-25**
- In essence what Jesus is saying here is that we have a duty to our nation, but we belong to God
- The image and inscription on the denarius were of Caesar – it belonged to him and it is right to give to him what is his
- All humans bear the image of God **Genesis 1:27**
So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- This is one of the reasons why we believe abortion at any time and for any reason is the taking of a divinely created, image-bearing life

- The Bible teaches clearly that Christians should be good citizens of the country they are living in – praying for peace in that place and for the leaders – even if they are bad, godless leaders

- There are times when we might have to resist the government

When asked to violate one of God's commands.

When asked to do an immoral act.

When asked to go against your conscience.

- As an example: I won't officiate a same-sex wedding. It's not because I hate homosexuals or am homophobic – I'm not – I don't hate anyone
- There is not a specific command: Thou shalt not officiate same-sex weddings!
- But I won't do it because it is asking me to participate in and condone an immoral act – asking me to endorse a lifestyle that I believe God forbids
- And it goes against my conscience – I believe it is wrong – not because I say so, the Bible does – clearly and repeatedly in both Old and New Testament
- The government says it is okay for people of the same sex to marry – but I can't be a part of it
- No one has asked to do it yet, but the thought of it makes me sad
- Marriage is so beautiful, so powerful, so enriching and fulfilling
- But only when done God's way – one man – one woman – for one lifetime – get the window decal
- You were made in God's image, and Christian, His name is written on your heart – you are His – give yourself to Him
- Well, these guys tried to trap Jesus and fail
- **Luke 20:26**
- Then the next group lines up to take a shot at Jesus
- **Luke 20:27-28**
- The Sadducees were a sect of Judaism that had been around for a couple hundred years
- They were very liberal in their theology – the religious elites – very powerful and influential – theological materialists
- They based all their doctrine on the first five books of the Bible – the Pentateuch

- They didn't believe in life after death, eternal punishment, or that God ever intervened in the affairs of man
- They quote a custom established in **Deuteronomy 25:5-6**
If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.
- It sounds pretty foreign to us – meant to preserve family lines
- Examples: Judah and Tamar – Genesis 38 and Boaz and Ruth – Ruth
- So, they quote the Bible and then give Jesus a scenario that they believe proves there is no resurrection of the dead
- **Luke 20:29-33**
- It is unlikely that this is a real account – parable – hyperbole
- They believed this illustration proved that the idea of resurrection was absurd
- Their assumption was that if there was a resurrection, that those who had been married would still be married
- That is because those who believed in the resurrection, believed that they would be resurrected into a renewed version of this life
- The next life is just like this one, just better
- Jesus is going correct everyone's understanding of the resurrection
- **Luke 20:34-35**
- Jesus breaks time into two parts 'this age' and 'that age'
- They are different – very different
- There is marriage in this age but not in that age
- Marriage won't be necessary in heaven
- **Luke 20:36**
- One of the primary purposes of marriage is to procreate – to multiply and fill the earth – to have babies **Malachi 2:15**
But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.
- 'nor can they die anymore' –no more death – no more procreation
- We have to be careful not to read too much into this next phrase 'they are equal to the angels'

- Literally = angel-like - in context this is referring to immortality and the matter of marriage
- We will not be angels in heaven – not chubby little cherubs on clouds with harps
- The Sadducees were saying that the Pentateuch did not teach about resurrection from the dead
- So, Jesus takes them to the Pentateuch to show them that it does
- **Luke 20:37-38**
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been dead (physically) for at least 400 years, but God says that He is their God in the present tense – now
- The hope of Christians is the resurrection **1 Corinthians 15:50-52**
Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- Not everyone believes that
- In Matthew’s Gospel of this account **Matthew 22:29**
Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”
- The reason someone would not believe in the resurrection of the dead is because they don’t know or believe what the Bible says about it
- They also don’t know the power of God
- God created the entire universe out of nothing – why would recreating these bodies and making them better be any harder?
- Listen, your story will be told by what you know about God’s Word, the Bible and what you know about His power
- And we have to be careful about what we are letting into our minds
- Going to rant for a minute or two – the new show Good Omens
- Terrible theology – an angel and a demon working together to stop the apocalypse – I don’t know where to start to describe how bad the theology is
- Some might say, ‘It’s just a show – no one will take it seriously – really?’ - Bad theology leads to bad living
- All three groups, the Pharisees, the Herodians, and the Sadducees had a mistaken understanding of the Scriptures and the power of God
- Their bad theology led them to try to trap Jesus

- Bad theology will cause us to relate to Jesus the wrong way
- And that will lead to your story coming out wrong
- To get your story right – meaning living the life God created you to live – must choose to know the Scriptures and understand the power of God as He is revealing it in this world
- And not only that, but the way you are living out the story of Christ in your life is teaching people about God and His power
- It really is important that we get the story right
- **Pray!**