



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story about Leaders!

Luke 20:39-47

Message #61 of 70 – S851

Sermon given on July 7, 2019



Sunday Morning Service

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A Story about Leaders!

Luke 20:39-47

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 20**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- If you put any group of people together and give them a task – someone is going to have to lead
- To accomplish anything as a group, some level of unity must be maintained – everyone must be working together toward the same goal – without unity = anarchy = unmet goals
- Without leadership, unity is rarely achieved
- But it can't be just any leadership – must be good leadership
- In our text today, Jesus is going to address some of the leaders of Israel and then warn the people about those leaders
- Whether you are leading or following – God has spoken about how He wants us to do it – it is part of your story that He wants you to get right
- Let's pray and then see how we might work on our story
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Story about Leaders!**
- Two weeks ago, a group of religious and civil leaders confronted Jesus about His authority to do the things He did
- Last week, three groups of leaders tried to trap Jesus in something He said
- Jesus is just days away from the cross – nothing will get in the way of Him finishing His work to make a way for forgiveness of sins for the whole world
- **Luke 20:39-40**
- If you ever want to do a fascinating study, look at all the places people ask Jesus questions
- Rarely does He answer them in a way that we might expect Him to

- That is because often the people are asking the wrong questions

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The words, why, when, where, and how are all words of the faithless. The only word spoken by a man or woman of faith is 'who.' And 'who' will lead you to Him (Christ).

- Jon Courson in his commentary on this text suggested that we replace the question mark in all our questions with a cross, because at the cross we will find the answer to all our questions
- When we ask God the wrong questions, He doesn't answer us the way we want Him to
- These religious guys would do well to remember what God said to

Job 38:1-3 NLT

Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind: "Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them."

- Job responded to God's questions by confessing his ignorance
- Jesus responds to the leaders with a question of His own

• **Luke 20:41**

- His question is directed at the scribes – sometimes called 'lawyers' – these guys were the 'experts' regarding the Scriptures
- They had the holy task of copying the Scriptures
- Not many people during that time could read and write
- They would also record and copy the teachings of the key rabbis of their time
- By this time, it was common for teachers to put more emphasis on the teachings of other rabbis than on what the Scriptures actually said
- Sadly, we see this very thing going on in churches – pastors teaching man's ideas rather than God's truths **1 Corinthians 2:13**

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

- A leader you can follow is one who takes His direction from the plain Word of God – without the addition of man's flawed ideas
- Jesus' question to them is an invitation – to examine what they believe about God's Word and see Jesus for who He truly is
- All Israel was looking forward to the Christ – (OT = Messiah) – a Savior King coming – Famous Christmas verse **Isaiah 9:6-7**

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty

God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

- The common view was that a gifted human who was descended from King David would come and reestablish the kingdom of Israel like the times of King David
- The term ‘Son of David’ came to be equivalent with Messiah
- Jesus is asking, how can that be possible?
- Then quotes David
- **Luke 20:42-43**
- This is quoted often in the NT
- We have to look at this more closely because the English doesn’t fully express what is going on, though the translators tried to help us out
- Notice the phrase ‘The LORD said to my Lord’
- David is writing this so it could be read – The LORD said to David’s Lord
- It is the double use of Lord that can be confusing until we look at the Hebrew
- Notice the first LORD = Hebrew national name for God – YHWH = Yahweh or Jehovah – God the Father, Almighty, Sovereign God
- The second Lord = Hebrew ‘adonai’ – universally accepted as the Messiah, the Christ
- Also, ‘sit at My right hand’ = seated on the throne of God = equal to God
- These were accepted interpretations of that verse
- Jesus asks them what the logical implication of that truth is
- **Luke 20:44**
- How is it possible that the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior King is both equal to God AND a descendant of King David?
- John’s gospel tells us how it is possible **John 1:1; 14**
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- This is the Apostle John’s introduction of Jesus, the Christ
- God became flesh – Jesus was both eternal God AND born as a descendant of King David by the virgin Mary

- This is recorded in Matthew and Mark also – no response from the scribes – they had no answer – would have to admit they were wrong about Jesus
- I’m guessing what Jesus said next didn’t get Him many likes on Instagram from the scribes
- **Luke 20:45-47**
- ‘long robes’ were worn by people who did not do manual labor
- They were also white as a symbol of their purity and holiness
- Common people were expected to stand in their presence and no feast was complete if there weren’t one or more of these guys in the best seats
- It was all for show – using their influence for evil, sinful, selfish gain
- Warning – ‘These will receive greater condemnation.’
- The Apostle James gives a similar warning **James 3:1**

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

- Listen – if God calls you into any area of leadership – where are you leading the people God has entrusted into your care?
- Guys – marriage – family – friends – work
- Ladies – children – friends – work
- Where are you leading them to?
- The scribes had the wrong idea about who Christ was
- The Pharisee and Sadducees and other leaders of Israel were trying to lead people away from Christ because they didn’t understand who He was
- It was not because they couldn’t understand – they chose not to
- If you think that might be you – repent – right now!
- There is a day coming when all will have to give an accounting for their lives **Daniel 12:1-3**

At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, *even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

- Use whatever influence God has given you to lead people to Christ

- To do that you need more of Christ – **More Jesus**
- Three quick things and then we will close
- First – we must **Know Jesus More!**
- Every group who interacted with Christ in chapter 20 was mistaken about who He was
- Last week I said you can't build a good life with bad theology
- You also can't be a good leader with bad theology
- Every group who approached Jesus in chapter 20 were leaders with bad theology = they attacked Jesus or tried to trap Him
- Jesus used the Scriptures to try to teach them about who He was
- You cannot have good theology without a regular diet of God's Word
- Second – we must **Be More Like Jesus!**
- The scribes knew God's Word better than just about anyone and yet Jesus accused them of being prideful, arrogant, greedy, and hypocritical
- It is not enough to know God's Word – it must change the way you act, think, and respond to the issues of life
- Examine all areas of your life in the light of God's Word
- Let the Holy Spirit change you
- Third, and finally – You must **Share Jesus More with Others!**
- This doesn't mean you have to preach at people – but is your life pointing people to Jesus
- If you are becoming more like Jesus, you will have a growing desire to share the hope He gives
- And if God has given you a gift to speak – tell them about Jesus
- God is writing a powerful story in your life and He has probably given you some amount of influence in some small part of this world
- Use that influence to lead people to Christ = 'shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.' I want that!
- **Pray!**