

Luke 20:1-26 The Kingdom Gospel & Religion

Early on in His Ministry, Yeshua exposed to His Disciples that the **religious people would not understand the mysteries of the Gospel of the Kingdom** which is why He spoke to them in parables.

Upon the arrival of Yeshua and His Disciples to the Temple, Yeshua began a series of teachings that tremendously troubled the religious leaders.

In this portion of Luke, **the religious leaders challenged Yeshua's authority, He refused to answer them, and they plotted to have Him arrested.**

In the teaching last week titled "The King and The House of God", Yeshua enters the city of Jerusalem riding on the colt of a donkey to the cry of the people shouting, "**Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.**"

Yeshua entered the Temple, referring to it as the House of God, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought.

Lk 19:46 Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Yeshua, while teaching in the House of God, was confronted by the Chief Priest, most likely the High Priest, along with some Scribes questioning His authority to be doing what He was doing where He was doing it. The High Priest was the chief authority over the Temple, and anything done on the Temple grounds was under his jurisdiction.

Lk 20:1 And it came to pass, *that* on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon *him* with the elders,
Lk 20:2 And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?

Yeshua did not defy the authority of the Priest but asked a question in return. The Priests, Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees had witnessed the following of Yeshua and the authority by which He spoke. Therefore, they were cautious about how they dealt with Him in the presence of the people.

Lk 20:3 And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me:
Lk 20:4 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?
Lk 20:5 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not?

In their reasoning, they revealed their rejection of John's authority and admitted that the people recognized John to be a prophet sent from Heaven, the home of YeHoVaH, therefore, from YeHoVaH.

Lk 20:6 But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet.
Lk 20:7 And they answered, that they could not tell whence *it was*.

Yeshua's question positioned the Chief Priests and Scribes to not answer Him, therefore, justifying Him in not answering them without disrespecting them or their authority in the House of God.

Lk 20:8 And Yeshua said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Lk 20:9 Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time.

- The certain man alludes to YeHoVaH.
- The husbandmen alludes to the Priests down through the centuries.
- The servants that were sent were the Prophets that were beaten, and some killed.
- The Son alludes to Yeshua that they would kill to take possession of the vineyard which alludes to the land of Israel.
- The destruction of the husbandmen alludes to the rejection of the religious leaders and the opening of the Gospel to everyone.

Lk 20:10 And at the season he sent a servant to the husbandmen, that they should give him of the fruit of the vineyard: but the husbandmen beat him, and sent *him* away empty.

Lk 20:11 And again he sent another servant: and they beat him also, and entreated *him* shamefully, and sent *him* away empty.

Lk 20:12 And again he sent a third: and they wounded him also, and cast *him* out.

Lk 20:13 Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence *him* when they see him.

Lk 20:14 But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.

Lk 20:15 So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed *him*. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them?

Lk 20:16 He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard *it*, they said, God forbid.

The Chief Priests and the Scribes conclude that Yeshua is speaking about them in the parable and responded, "God forbid".

Yeshua quotes from Scripture passages that were very familiar to the religious leaders of the day. First, Yeshua quoted from the Psalmist.

Ps 118:22 The stone *which* the builders refused is become the head *stone* of the corner.

Ps 118:23 This is the LORD'S doing; it *is* marvellous in our eyes.

Ps 118:24 This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Ps 118:25 Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

Ps 118:26 Blessed *be* he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

Lk 20:17 And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

Yeshua then quoted from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isa 8:13 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be* your fear, and *let him be* your dread.

Isa 8:14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Isa 8:15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Isa 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

Lk 20:18 Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Both of those passages Yeshua quoted from should have led to the religious leaders repenting, but instead of repenting, they plotted to destroy Him.

Lk 20:19 And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them.

Religious leaders are always plotting how to take advantage of YeHoVaH's people to bring them under their control instead of preaching the true Gospel of the Kingdom that would result in the people turning their hearts to YeHoVaH in fear, reverence, and true worship of the King of Glory, YeHoVaH of Host!

Denominations, nations, governments, and elected officials, who are given the responsibilities to serve the people they represent, end up serving themselves and bringing people under their authority instead.

Religious denominations are masters at trying to brand the people as their members, claiming ownership of their members, and requiring them to submit to some statement of faith.

Lk 20:20 And they watched *him*, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

Spies – **1455** ἐγκάθετος egkathetos {eng-kath'-et-os}

Meaning: 1) secretly to lie in wait, a spy 2) one who is bribed by others to entrap a man by crafty words

Usage: AV - spy 1; 1

Feign – **5271** ὑποκρίνομαι hupokrinomai {hoop-ok-rin'-om-ahee}

Meaning: 1) to take up another's statements in reference to what one has decided for one's self 1a) to reply, answer 2) to make answer (speak) on the stage 2a) **to impersonate** anyone, **play a part** 3) to simulate, feign, **pretend**

Usage: AV - feign 1; 1

Just men – **1342** δίκαιος dikaios {dik'-ah-yos}

Meaning: 1) righteous, observing divine laws 1a) in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God 1a1) of those who seem to themselves to be righteous, who pride themselves to be righteous, who pride themselves in their virtues, whether real or imagined 1a2) innocent, faultless, guiltless

Usage: AV - righteous 41, just 33, right 5, meet 2; 81

These spies would impersonate or present themselves to be just or righteous men, but they were hypocrites. Their approach was flattery. While calling Yeshua a teacher who teaches right, is no respecter of persons, and who teaches the way of YeHoVaH truthfully, they were rejecting His teachings and trying to set Him up against the Roman government who were the occupiers and rulers of the land of Israel at that time.

Lk 20:21 And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person *of any*, but teachest the way of God truly:

Lk 20:22 Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?

Yeshua called them out.

Lk 20:23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

Lk 20:24 Show me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.

Lk 20:25 And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

Yeshua's response shut them down.

Lk 20:26 And they could not take hold of his words before the people: and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace.

Marvelled – **2296 θαυμάζω** thaumazo {thou-mad'-zo}

Meaning: 1) to wonder, wonder at, marvel 2) to be wondered at, to be had in admiration

Usage: AV - marvel 29, wonder 14, have in admiration 1, admire 1, marvelled + 2258 1, vr wonder 1; 47

The spies admired Yeshua's response and held their peace.

During the life and earthly Ministry of Yeshua, the governments, High Priests, Priests, Sadducees, Pharisees, Scribes and religious leaders of the synagogues all wanted control over the people of YeHoVaH.

The High Priests, Priests, Sadducees, Pharisees, Scribes and religious leaders of the synagogues, who were supposed to represent YeHoVaH, represented their own brand of religion, usurped YeHoVaH's authority, and claimed authority over the people until John the Baptist and Yeshua.

John was beheaded, Yeshua was crucified, and the religious leaders turned their sights to the followers of Yeshua up to this day.

The religious leaders of our day, in their denominational and non-denominational positions, continue to usurp authority over YeHoVaH's people, going as far as to say that their people don't have to keep or submit to the Law of YeHoVaH.

Many denominational and non-denominational religious leaders today explain away the Law, prophesy their own prophetic words, teach from the books of their favorite authors, fleece their people, and engage in sexual relationships with their male and female members all the while claiming to be just men and women.

Many denominational and non-denominational religious leaders today claim to be teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ but in reality, are teaching a gospel about Jesus, NOT the Gospel Yeshua taught.

Many denominational and non-denominational religious leaders today teach what they call the gospel of grace.

The Grace that brings salvation, according to Paul, clearly states:

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Yeshua's Disciple, Peter, understood the purpose of Yeshua's coming, the message He preached, and the Great Commission, as we know it, in preparation for Messiah's second coming.

Peter wrote:

^{2Pe 3:9} The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

^{2Pe 3:10} But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

^{2Pe 3:11} *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

^{2Pe 3:12} Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

^{2Pe 3:13} Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

^{2Pe 3:14} Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

^{2Pe 3:15} And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

^{2Pe 3:16} As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

^{2Pe 3:17} Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

^{2Pe 3:18} But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Yeshua Messiah. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.