



## The Words of Jesus Series

# Jesus' Authority Questioned

Vineyard Workers, Two Sons, Taxes, Resurrection, David's Son

**Context: Luke 20, Matthew 21 & 22**

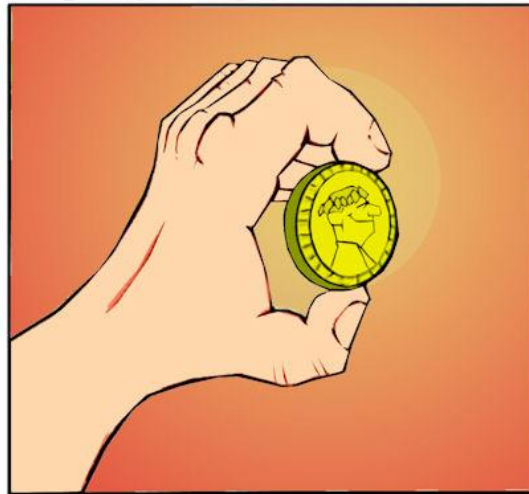
**Lesson 1 – Wicked Vineyard Workers** (Luke 20:1-18)

**Lesson 2 – Death and Taxes** (Luke 20:19-39)

**Lesson 3 – David's Son** (Luke 20:40-47, Matthew 22:33-47)

Jesus tells the parables of the Wicked Vineyard Worker and the Two Sons. He doesn't answer questions about His authority, and fends off trick questions about paying Roman taxes and the General Resurrection. He talks about the two Great Commandments and asks the Pharisees a question about the Christ being David's son which they can not answer.

### The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. **Mt 22:15-22**

#### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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**Lesson 1 – Wicked Vineyard Workers** (Luke 20:1-18)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Luke 20:1-2 What did they want to know? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] Luke 20:3-8 What did Jesus ask them? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] Matthew 21:27-30 Which son said and did what? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] Matthew 21:31-32 Who did Jesus relate to the one who said "No," but went and worked? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] Matthew 21:32-33 Who did Jesus relate to the one who said, "Yes," but did not go? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] Luke 20:9-15 What did they do to the various messengers sent by the owner? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] Luke 20:16 What did He say would be done to the wicked workers? \_\_\_\_\_

[1H] Luke 20:17-18 What happened to the stone the builder's rejected? \_\_\_\_\_

[1I] What is the parable of the Wicked Vineyard Worker's about? (Hint: Matthew 21:33-46)

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

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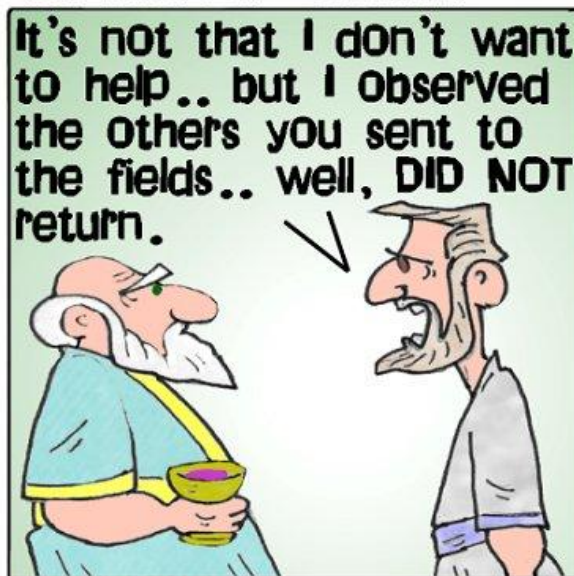
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THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



**Luke 20:9-19** The parable of the land-owner, servants, and tenants. Are we as servants faithful with the message God calls us to share.

**Lesson 1 – Wicked Vineyard Workers (Luke 20:1-18)**

[1A] Luke 20:1-2 What did they want to know? The source of Jesus' authority He had just run commerce out of the temple. They asked for his authority, but what they really wanted was some way to trap Him in public.

[1B] Luke 20:3-8 What did Jesus ask them? For the authority of John's baptism

[1C] Matthew 21:27-30 Which son said and did what?

One said, "No," but went and worked. The other said, "Yes," but didn't go and work.

[1D] Matthew 21:31-32 Who did Jesus relate to the one who said "No," but went and worked.

Tax collectors's and prostitutes.

[1E] Matthew 21:32-33 Who did Jesus relate to the one who said, "Yes," but did not go.

Chief priests and elders Matthew 21:23 They were all talk, and no action.

[1F] Luke 20:9-15 What did they do to the various messengers sent by the owner?

Treated them badly, did not pay the rent, and killed the son.

[1G] Luke 20:16 What did He say would be done to the wicked workers? Destruction

[1H] Luke 20:17-18 What happened to the stone the builder's rejected? It became the corner stone

[1I] In the parable of the wicked vineyard workers Jesus is the son, the owner is God the Father, the workers are the chief priests, elders and scribes, and the messengers are the prophets of the Old Testament up to and including John the Baptist. Matthew 21:43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it." Are you the "taken away from you" group or are you the "people producing the fruit of it" group. What are you doing with the things God has given you? He gave you your life, whatever measure of health you have, whatever education, skills or abilities you possess, any money you have, and all of your property including the clothes on your back. What dividend is He receiving for His investment in you?

**For further thought:**

(1j) Why did the chief priests, scribes and elders say, "May it never be!" in Luke 20:17? Is there any other way to take it except that they understood clearly that Jesus was saying they were the wicked workers? (Matthew 21:45-46, Luke 20:19-20)

(1k) What does Luke 20:17-18 mean?

(1l) Compare Luke 20:17-18 with Psalm 118.22. What did you learn? Did you look at the whole Psalm?

(1m) In Matthew 21:23-32 which of the two sons is more like you?

(1n) In Luke 20:6 they feared for their lives. Herod had John the Baptist beheaded and no one stoned him. What is the difference?

**Lesson 2 – Death and Taxes** (Luke 20:19-39)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] Luke 20:19-20 What was the purpose of asking Him questions?

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[2B] Luke 20:21 How would you characterize what they said about Him? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] Luke 20:22-23 What trickery? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] Luke 20:24-26 Who's picture is on the one dollar bill? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] Luke 20:27 Did the Sadducees believe in the general resurrection? \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] Luke 20:28-33 How many brothers all had the same wife? \_\_\_\_\_

[2G] Luke 20:34-36 What Old Testament passage is being quoted here? How did Jesus know that there is no marriage in heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

[2H] Luke 20:37-39 What part of the Old Testament did Jesus use to demonstrate the truth of the general resurrection. \_\_\_\_\_

[2I] Compare Luke 20:21-25 with Romans 13:1-8. What is the same and what is different? So what?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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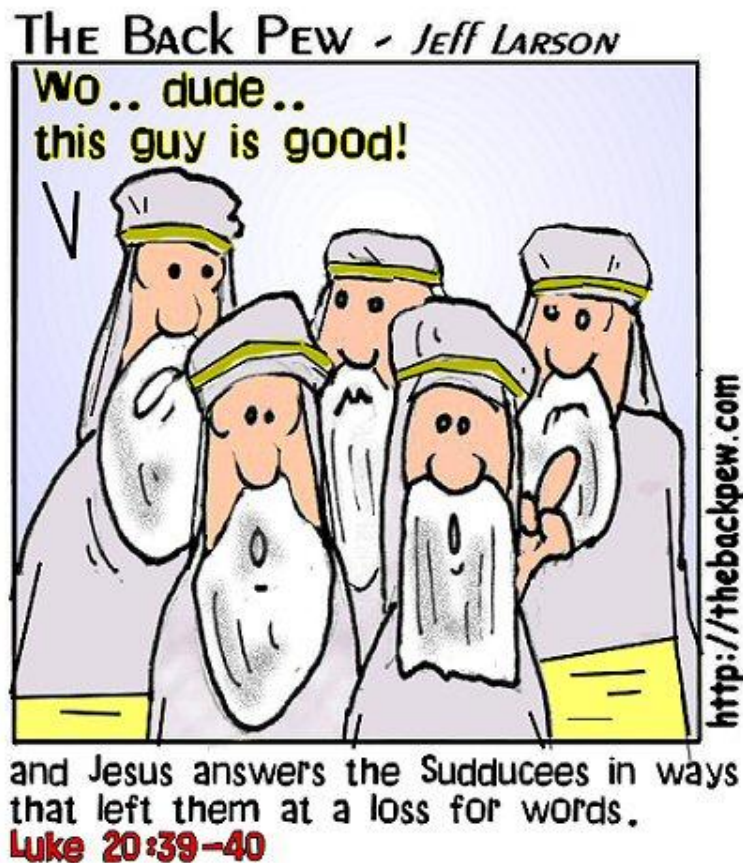
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**Lesson 2 – Death and Taxes (Luke 20:19-39)**

[2A] Luke 20:19-20 What was the purpose of asking Him questions?

To trap Him into saying something that would get Him in trouble

[2B] Luke 20:21 How would you characterize what they said about Him? Empty flattery in my opinion

[2C] Luke 20:22-23 What trickery? If He said don't pay the tax, He would break Roman law. If He said do pay the tax, the people would get angry at Him, or so His questioners thought, because Roman taxes were universally hated.

[2D] Luke 20:24-26 Who's picture is on the one dollar bill? Washington.

[2E] Luke 20:27 Did the Sadducees believe in the general resurrection? No. They only held the first five books as the authoritative word of God. Moses did not talk about the resurrection very much.

[2F] Luke 20:28-33 How many brothers all had the same wife? Seven

[2G] Luke 20:34-36 What Old Testament passage is being quoted here? How did Jesus know that there is no marriage in heaven? No Old Testament passage addresses this issue. Jesus knew what Heaven was like because He had already spent an eternity there.

[2H] Luke 20:37-39 What part of the Old Testament did Jesus use to demonstrate the truth of the general resurrection. Exodus 3 A book of Moses, in the part the Sadducees accepted as God's word.

[2I] What is the same is that both encourage the listener to obey the governing authorities including paying taxes. The difference is that Jesus does it by way of an example that implies this truth. Paul uses no example, but simply states explicitly that we are to obey. Paul also explains why we are to obey them. One reason is because they have the authority to punish you. The other is God put them in place to carry out His purposes, the general good of the population as a whole.

**For further thought:**

(2j) What question would you like to ask Jesus?

(2k) What is it going to be like for divorced and widowed people who have re-married when they meet their former spouses in heaven? Why do you think that?

(2l) Jesus was able to defend the doctrine of the resurrection using the words of God to Moses at the burning bush. Do you know of anything else in the books of Moses, Genesis through Deuteronomy, which supports the doctrine of the resurrection?

(2m) If someone opens a conversation with you with a bunch of compliments (like Luke 20:21) what impact does it have on how you answer them? Is that the way it should be?

(2n) Compare Luke 20:34-36 and Mark 12:24-25. We stated previously that there is no Old Testament passage that addresses the subject of marriage in heaven. What "Scriptures" did Jesus mean in Mark 12:24?

**Lesson 3 – David's Son** (Luke 20:40-47, Matthew 22:33-47)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] Luke 20:40-47 What question did Jesus ask?

\_\_\_\_\_

[3B] Matthew 22:34 What did the Pharisees hear? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] Matthew 22:35 Who asked Jesus a question? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] Matthew 22:35-39. What are the greatest commandments?

\_\_\_\_\_

[3E] Matthew 22:40 What depends on these two commandments? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] Matthew 22:41-42 Who's son is the Christ, the Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] Matthew 22:43-45 In David's Psalm quoted here, who does David call "Lord?" \_\_\_\_\_

[3H] Matthew 22:46 Could anyone answer the question Jesus asked? \_\_\_\_\_

[3I] Thinking about Luke 20:40-47: How can the Messiah be both David's son and his Lord?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**



Serving out of duty rather than love for too long  
will put you at high risk for a spiritual heart attack.  
**Mt. 22:37**



**Lesson 3 – David's Son** (Luke 20:40-47, Matthew 22:33-47)

[3A] Luke 20:40-47 What question did Jesus ask?

How can the Messiah be both David's son and his Lord?

[3B] Matthew 22:34 What did the Pharisees hear? That Jesus had silenced the Sadducees

[3C] Matthew 22:35 Who asked Jesus a question? A lawyer

[3D] Matthew 22:35-39. What are the greatest commandments?

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,"  
and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

[3E] Matthew 22:40 What depends on these two commandments?

The Whole Law and the Prophets, in other words, all of the Scriptures

[3F] Matthew 22:41-42 Who's son is the Christ, the Messiah? David's Son

[3G] Matthew 22:43-45 In David's Psalm quoted here, who does David call "Lord?" The Christ

[3H] Matthew 22:46 Could anyone answer the question Jesus asked? No

[3I] Christ's heavenly divine nature is David's Lord. Christ's human body is David's son.

**For further thought:**

(3j) Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1 in Luke 20:42. Psalm 110 was generally accepted by the Pharisees to be about the coming Messiah. Read all seven verses of Psalm 110. Can you see why they thought it was a Messianic passage, that is, a passage talking about the coming Christ? Why or why not?

(3k) Has anyone ever tripped you up with a trick question? What was that like? Did it cost you anything?

(3l) What does it mean in Matthew 22:40 when it says the entire Bible depends on the two Great Commandments?

(3m) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?

(3n) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?

(3o) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?