



**Wednesday**  
**Luke 20:16-19 The Cornerstone**

**Read: Luke 20:16-19**

Carrying on from yesterday, we pick up this parable in verse 16, where some people got the point for the first time. We saw yesterday that this parable helps us to think about God's justice. Here we are reminded that we need to respond to Jesus.

In verse 17, Jesus quotes Psalm 118. The Psalm speaks of how God comes to Israel's rescue – how God reverses things – how the thing that people despised has become important. The image is of a builder choosing stones to make a building. For the cornerstone you needed a stone strong enough to hold the weight of two walls – one without defects or cracks which would get bigger under pressure, meaning the walls might fall down.

The builders reject a stone – but that stone becomes the keystone, the cornerstone. The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus – yet He will rise again from the dead, and rise to be at the right hand of God the father.

Jesus is the cornerstone. It all boils down to how you respond to Jesus (verse 18). Whichever way you look at it, it is all about how you respond to God's son.

The Son has come. Luke and the other gospels tell us that He came, and that He died on the cross. Not just because the Jewish leaders didn't like Him – but because on the cross, Jesus gave His life for others – He died in our place – He died so that we might live.

We have lived as the tenants lived. We have

ignored God. We have chosen our own ways and paths. And so we deserve the judgment that they received. And yet, in His mercy and grace God sent His son into the world to die in our place on the cross, to take the punishment we deserve, so that we might live – so that we might be the new tenants that God puts in His vineyard.

We are called to respond. Not with anger like the Jewish leaders (verse 19), or with disbelief like the crowd (verse 16), but with repentance and faith.

*So today:*

*Give thanks that Jesus is the cornerstone who died and rose for us.*

*Pray that we would know Him, and love Him more and more.*

**Activity for Families with Children**

**Starter:** talk about building something out of blocks or Lego, and the importance of having solid pieces at the bottom. You could even get some blocks and build a house... what happens if you take a block out from the bottom?

**Read Luke 20:17**

What happens to the stone the builders rejected?

**Read:** Jesus is the cornerstone, even though people rejected Him. He died and rose again for us.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus we thank you for dying and rising for us, and giving us eternal life. Amen.



**Thursday**  
**Luke 20:20-26 Give your due**

**Read Luke 20:20-26**

As we continue in Luke 20, the issue of authority comes up again (v20). The leaders have been asking Jesus about His authority since the start of the chapter, now another authority comes into play, the Romans: can they get Jesus into trouble with the authorities, so that they can get rid of Him.

So the question comes from the spies after a bit of flattery, verses 21-22. The question is designed as a trap.

If Jesus says no, then He is in trouble with the Roman authorities. If yes, then He is unpopular with the Jewish people. How will Jesus answer?

In verses 23 to 25, Jesus shows His authority – by seeing through their trap. He gets them to get a denarius – a Roman coin – with the head of Caesar on it, and an inscription saying something like – Caesar is Lord.

Why? Well by producing the coin, they show that they are using these coins day by day – showing that they, just like everybody else, accept Caesar's authority to raise taxes, and keep the peace, and preserve law and order and so on.

Then notice Luke's conclusion to this passage in verse 26. They couldn't trap Him instead they were amazed by the skill with which He answers. Jesus demonstrates His authority in knowing what they are doing, in knowing the answer to their impossible question and actually teaching something useful, not just avoiding the trap, and in showing that although they are the

authorities in Jerusalem – He is the one who has true authority from God.

So we rejoice in Jesus' authority, and again we recognise who He is—the Son of God, who has authority.

*So today:*

*Give thanks that Jesus has authority over all things.*

*Pray that we might be encouraged and reassured by who Jesus is.*

**Activity for Families with Children**

**Starter:** get a coin and look at it. whose head is on it? what do we use it for?

**Read Luke 20:25**

What should we give to Caesar or our government?

What should we give to God?

**Read:** Jesus tells us that we should obey our government, but that we should also obey God, and of course God comes first.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, help us to put trusting and knowing God our Father first. Amen.



**Friday**  
**Luke 20:41-44 Whose Son?**

**Read Luke 20:41-44**

Jesus is in Jerusalem, and various people have come to ask Him questions. No one has tripped Him up: Jesus has shown His authority. Now He turns to His audience and asks them. The scribes and Pharisees ask a question (v41).

The Christ is the Messiah, the Son of David. This is a standard idea from the Old Testament – also an idea that tended to focus on a military leader. Is Jesus denying that the Messiah is David’s son here? No – but He is saying something else as well in verses 42-44.

Jesus quotes Psalm 110. In the Psalm, David has two Lords. One is of course the LORD God, God the Father. But there is another Lord, who will sit at God’s right hand until His enemies are defeated. This other Lord, says Jesus, is the Messiah – and if He is David’s Lord, how can he be his son? See the logic. David calls Him Lord and you don’t call your son Lord. If He is Lord – what does that mean about the Messiah as son of David?

Now this question here does different things for different people. For the scribes and Pharisees it brings silence, they have no answer to Jesus. But what about for us?

You see, we would recognise wouldn’t we from many places in the Old and New Testament that Jesus is the son of David. It is not wrong to call Him that. But at the same time – we also need to recognise that Jesus, the son of David, is also Jesus the Lord – the

one who sits at God’s right hand in heaven as His enemies are defeated. This is a royal picture – and a picture of a warrior king.

The one who died on the cross at Easter for our sins, who took the punishment we deserve, is also the one who is exalted at the right hand of God in heaven, whose enemies are being defeated – and who is coming back to judge the world.

Jesus is Lord is a comfort – and a challenge – have we rightly understood who Jesus is?

*So today*

*Give thanks that Jesus is the Messiah, the Lord of all*

*Pray that He would draw us to Himself so that we might know Him.*

**Activity for Families with Children**

**Starter:** talk about how different seats show people’s jobs. The teacher has a seat in the classroom, truck drivers have seats in their cabs, and who sits on a throne?

**Read Luke 20:42-43**

Who is speaking here?

Where does Jesus get to sit?

**Read:** Jesus sits at God’s right hand, and He is the King.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus thank You that you are the King, and we can trust You. Amen.



**Tuesday**  
**Luke 20:9-16 The Tenants**

**Read Luke 20:9-16**

Jesus tells a parable, about a man and his tenants (v9), which we’ll look at today and tomorrow. The man who planted the vineyard represents God. The tenant farmers represent the nation of Israel – and the vineyard itself, the land of Israel, the land of blessing. We know this from the response of the Jewish leaders in verse 19.

God plants a vineyard – He brought His people out of Egypt into the promised land – and He placed them there, to be His people. Then He asks for His due, but is refused (v10) And the tenants go from bad to worse, verses 11-12. Again and again the tenants wouldn’t listen. Again and again, Israel ignored God’s servants – the prophets, as they called the nation back to God. Again and again, God gave His people the opportunity to come back to Him – but they ignored God’s word, they ignored the prophets – worse – they killed some of them.

And of course we know that we often act towards God just like the tenants.

And so the owner sends His beloved son to the tenants (verse 13). After all, surely they will respect Him? And at this point, of course, the parable comes closest to reality, for God has sent His Son into the world, although He knew how the world would react to Him. He is rejected, verses 14 and 15.

But the focus is on what the owner, God will do, verses 15 and 16. He will deal with the tenants. God will judge with justice – because otherwise, the tenants would get away with, literally, murder. He throws out the unfaithful tenants – but he gives the vineyard to others.

Not because they deserve it – but because God is gracious.

Jesus retells Israel’s history here, reminding them, and us of God’s graciousness, patience, and justice.

We are reminded that Jesus talks a lot about judgement, which some may find surprising – but the one who has come to pay the penalty for our sin warns us of what is to come if we reject Him as the tenants rejected Him.

*So today:*

*Give thanks to God that Jesus came to us.*

*Pray that others would come to know Jesus and avoid His judgement.*

**Activity for Families with Children**

**Starter:** talk about situations where you have to do certain things. If you want to go to a concert or a football match or similar, you have to buy a ticket; if you go to school, you wear uniform etc.

**Read Luke 20:9-10**

What should the tenants do?

What do you think will happen to them?

**Read:** Jesus tells us that we are often like the tenants, ignoring God and ignoring Jesus. We need to say sorry to Him, and ask His forgiveness.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, we are sorry for ignoring you. Please forgive us. Thank you for dying for us. Amen.



## Monday

### Luke 20:1-8 A surprising refusal

#### Read Luke 20:1-8

This week we are looking at a number of passages which show us that Jesus does not always do what we might expect Him to do, which challenges us, and others, to think about who He really is.

We begin in Luke 20:1-2, where Jesus is asked a question: where does His authority come from? He has just cleansed the temple and ridden into Jerusalem on a donkey to the acclamation of the crowd—why?

And what we notice here is Jesus refusal to answer the question. He does this by presenting the chief priests, scribes and elders with a question which they cannot answer, about the origin of John's baptism (v3-4). We see why they cannot answer in verses 5 and 6—either they will fall foul of the people, or they will condemn themselves.

And so they do not answer, verse 7, thus enabling Jesus to refuse to reveal the source of His authority, verse 8. But why? It is a question of timing: the revelation of who Jesus is will come at His trial and on the cross, but not yet, and it will come when Jesus chooses to reveal who He is.

Paradoxically, His refusal to answer reminds us of his authority —The Son of God, who has authority over all things, and is not at the beck and call of the chief priests or anybody else. We can't control or manipulate Jesus, but we can rely on His promises, and what He came to do. He may not always do what we want, but He does what is best.

#### So today:

*Give thanks that Jesus is the Son of God, who revealed His authority at the right time.*

*Pray for a heart that seeks to worship Jesus and do His will.*

#### Activity for Families with Children

**Starter:** talk about the different people who are in charge of things—parents, teachers, police officers etc.

#### Read Luke 20:1-2

What question is Jesus asked?

Where does Jesus authority come from?

**Read:** Jesus has authority to do things because He is God's Son, who came down from heaven. He is in charge of everything!

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank You that You are in charge. Help us to follow You. Amen.



## Saturday

### Luke 20:45-21:4 The right response

#### Read Luke 20:45-21:4

For our final reading this week, we are thinking about how we respond to Jesus. Everybody is listening (v45), and Jesus has some words for the scribes (v46-7).

They are words of condemnation and warning. Warning about what? About those who are spiritual leaders, but who are more interested in spiritual showmanship, whether shown in clothing, or public displays of importance in the marketplace, or in a desire to be recognised and given proper status.

They put on a good show – but in reality – they take advantage of their position to take from the weak and vulnerable. In reality their prayers are all for show.

There is a warning for us too here: are we interested in honour and position and prestige? Does our outward spirituality match the inward reality? Because as Jesus goes on to say, this is all about the attitude of the heart.

In chapter 21 verses 1 and 2 we see this. The setting is funding the temple, with a public offering of a coin. The rich giving lots, but the widow giving two tiny coins. By appearance – surely the rich give more, but actually it is the widow (v3-4). This is not an attack on the rich or a criticism of their generosity, but a recognition that appearances can be deceptive.

The widow's gift was a great deal in terms of her heart attitude. She gave first to God – a sign of a heart that seeks God. True

spirituality isn't about show – true spirituality is about a heart which seeks God. And so we need to learn from the attitude of the widow.

Which means first, we need to recognise who Jesus really is, the one who died on the cross and is exalted in heaven.

Then we need put aside our desire to be seen and to show off, and to have others look at us and think well of us because of what we have done in public, as we await Jesus' return to make us perfect.

#### So today

*Give thanks that Jesus is Saviour and Lord*

*Pray that we would learn from the example of the widow.*

#### Activity for Families with Children

**Starter:** get another coin. What kinds of things can you do with coins? What can you spend them on?

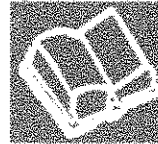
#### Read Luke 21:1-4

What does the widow do?

What does Jesus tell us about her?

**Read:** The widow gives generously to God, even though she doesn't have much. Jesus calls us to give generously from the heart with our money and everything else.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus, help us to give You our whole hearts. Amen.



Welcome to the final week of our bible reading notes looking at 'Evangelistically Active', which is our topic for the next five weeks in our morning service, leading up to Easter Day.

Our aim with these notes is to encourage one another to read God's word, so you may want commit with a friend to do these bible readings and to pray each day – and then ask each other how you've got on during the week.

*This week we're looking at Luke 20, as we remind ourselves who Jesus is and what He has come to do.*

These notes should hopefully be useful for individuals and for families with and without children. Each day, there is a bible passage to read – **read that first**, and **pray** - ask God to help you understand it. (If it is your habit to spend some time with the passage and make your own notes, then do that now.)

Once you've read the passage and thought about it – have a look at the accompanying notes. The notes cover some of the context of the passage, an explanation and an application. There are also some accompanying questions or suggestions for action. As God speaks to you through His word, you may wish to write down what He is calling you to do (and share it with someone!) However, don't worry if sometimes you don't receive an obvious answer to prayer or clear instruction – just keep faithfully reading God's word, and He will use it in your life, as the Holy Spirit works in you.

After you've looked at the bible passage is a good time to pray – pray for strength to do

what you need to do – thank God for what you have learned about Him – and bring your requests before Him.

Then, you'll see that there is an activity for families with children; the target age range of these activities is 4-11ish, so you may need to modify them. This activity draws on one or two of the verses you've been reading, and give you some suggestions for sharing them with the family – over the breakfast or tea table perhaps. There's a starter activity to get people thinking, then reading the passage, some questions to answer, and then something to read – and a prayer so you don't forget to pray (just a starting point – do pray for longer if you can). Should take about five minutes – but can easily expand if you want it to.

Don't worry about communicating everything – particularly if you've got small children – communicating something of the good news of Jesus Christ every day is a great place to begin.

Enjoy – and let me know how you get on