

Luke 20:1-19 Authority contested

For Redeemer Growth Groups for week commencing 11 March 2024

Warm up question: can you think of a time you struggled to receive authority of someone (why was it hard?)

Read 19:47-20:1-19

1. In v1-7 there is a contrast. How are the people receiving Jesus? How are the leaders responding to him?
The people “hung on all his words” as he taught them. The leaders were trying to kill him and challenged his authority.
2. What do the leaders in not like about Jesus?
The people hung on all his words – not theirs. He called them out.
3. What do vv4-5 affirm about Jesus’ authority?
[if needed: what did John believe to be true about Jesus? What did he call for as the right response to make to Jesus’ authority in Luke 3:4,7-8?? The way to respond was repentance – being dunked and living a changed life.]
4. How might we summarise what is happening in v1-8?
Jesus teaches as one who has God’s authority. The people receive him, their leaders reject/challenge him.
5. A tone question: What is the tone of this whole passage? What is the evidence of this from the text?
It is mostly a passage of warning. It has heavy content. (v15 the tenants killed the Son, v16 the owner will kill the tenants, v18 those who reject Jesus will have disastrous consequence.)
6. A more simple question: given that v19 connects the tenants with the teachers of the law etc, who do the other figures in the parable represent?
The owner of the vineyard – God. The servants – those who spoke on God’s behalf (prophets etc). The beloved Son – Jesus.
7. A contrast question. What does the owner of the vineyard want? What do the tenants want?
V13 “perhaps they will respect him.” The owner is giving the tenants another chance to respond.
8. Why do the tenants feel that they can kill the Son?
They think that they will receive the inheritance if they do – if he is taken out of the way.
9. How significant is it to reject Jesus’ authority according to vv17-18?
[it may be that falling on the rock refers to actively resisting him now, and it falling on referring to what its like to ignore Jesus in life only to meet him on the last day]
10. As we think about the whole passage, why is it disastrous to reject Jesus’ authority?
He has God’s authority (v1-8). He is the cornerstone (the most important stone that is foundational). Disaster comes on all who reject him (v17-18).
11. What does this passage say to people who are selective in obeying Jesus?
Jesus has God’s authority – to resist him in any area is to suggest that we know better than God in some areas.
12. If we are not such people as a church, how should we (i) respond to Jesus and (ii) engage with such people?
(i) Obey him with gladness. (ii) Lovingly warn those who are in danger of rejecting him.

For Prayer: that God would help us gladly obey him, even in those areas that are hard, that God would give us patience with others who struggle to receive him; that we’ll be compelled by the cornerstone, both to trust in him, and to help others who are currently resisting / ignoring Him.

[Big Idea of this Study: Jesus has been given all authority by God; reject His authority at your peril. Main application (more correcting / challenging than affirming / encouraging) – be careful of thinking you know better than Jesus.]