

## **[One of Those Days] / Gospel of Luke Chapter Twenty**

~ Our Spiritual Safari is trying to bring you a new and fresh, useful and meaningful experience from the Bible that will make your life more exciting and vibrant as we all seek to serve the Lord Jesus Christ better than yesterday. We have been traveling across Israel with Jesus and the disciples in the previous several chapters; and we have now arrived in Jerusalem. It seems it took a long time in this Gospel to get here; but, now that I look back, it feels as if I rushed it. The disciples really didn't quite understand what was going on at this time. Jesus had told them He was going to die at Jerusalem; but they thought He was going to establish His Kingdom. Then, we saw Jesus enter Jerusalem three different times and weep over the city; likely on that last day. After that, the temple was cleansed....

***1 And it came to pass, on one of the days, as he was teaching the people in the temple, and preaching the gospel, there came upon him the chief priests and the scribes with the elders;***

~ My personal belief is that Jesus went into the temple every day to teach until He was arrested on the Passover. Either way, we have seen Jesus employ the Socratic method of answering the questions of the Pharisee's with a question of His own. This method is effective if you are sincere in your theology; but it will embarrass you to shame if you are using it improperly. Well, these Pharisee's go off in a huddle just to see if they even have an answer and, as it turns out, they don't. We saw the religious rulers tongue-tied once before at the Pharisee's house when Jesus asked if He could heal on the Sabbath. See, the Pharisee's had a thousand and one questions but they can't – or won't – answer a single question from Jesus. I think you should also note by now that the disciples never interrupted Jesus or got involved in the conversations He had with the religious rulers – the apostles just watched and learned....

***2 and they spake, saying unto him, Tell us: By what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?***

***3 And he answered and said unto them, I also will ask you a question; and tell me:***

**4 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or from men?**

**5 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why did ye not believe him?**

**6 But if we shall say, From men; all the people will stone us: for they are persuaded that John was a prophet.**

**7 And they answered, that they knew not whence [it was].**

**8 And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.**

~ Of course, the Pharisee's question was neither honest nor sincere. If they had been willing to accept John Baptist, then they would have accepted Jesus. All you have to do is understand the position of the religious ruler on John as the forerunner and you will know everything you need to know about their relationship to Christ! If the religious rulers had accepted John for who he was, then they never would have questioned the authority of Jesus. There are many insincere questions asked today that, when they are asked, I know immediately I am dealing with an overly simplistic believer who is just plain ignorant of the Word of God – or – they are asking deceitful and loaded questions. There is a question that comes before any of your questions, and that question is my question - and that question is: do you really believe the Word of God?

Many people comment on the Bible when they are abjectly ignorant of it – and they typically leave their common sense behind when they go off on their religious rants and tangents. The Bible just happens to be rooted in good old-fashioned consecrated common sense, friends. With all of that said, Jesus answers their question by not answering it – but – the question of the Pharisee will never be satisfied with a correct, complete and Scriptural answer anyway. You must be willing to accept that when engaging apostates and unbelievers alike in conversation, they are wholly insincere. When the religious ruler was sincere with Jesus, however, he always got an honest and complete answer....

**9 And he began to speak unto the people this parable: A man planted a vineyard, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into another country for a long time.**

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

~ The 'vineyard' is the nation Israel - as we have seen in Matthew and Mark. We're talking about God sending prophet after prophet to His people and they just kept killing them. It amazes me that anyone would ever call themselves a prophet because all of the prophets were killed by stoning in Israel. Well, finally the son is sent, and I don't think we could miss the meaning of that unless we were deliberately trying to weave a false doctrine. That is the meaning of this, obviously, as Jesus makes Himself clear to these men that He is talking about Himself. Further, Jesus is telling them in advance what is in their heart and what they want to do to Him and what they are going to, ultimately, do to Him. As we know, God will permit the crucifixion to happen....

**11 And he sent yet another servant: and him also they beat, and handled him shamefully, and sent him away empty.**

**12 And he sent yet a third: and him also they wounded, and cast him forth.**

**13 And the lord of the vineyard said, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; it may be they will reverence him.**

**14 But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned one with another, saying, This is the heir; let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.**

**15 And they cast him forth out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore will the lord of the vineyard do unto them?**

***16 He will come and destroy these husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others. And when they heard it, they said, God forbid.***

***17 But he looked upon them, and said, What then is this that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, The same was made the head of the corner?***

~ The Pharisee's thought they could destroy the Lord Jesus by killing Him; but they were fulfilling the plan of God by doing so. I have to believe some of them recognized the prophecies being fulfilled. They rejected Christ; but Christ is the cornerstone of our salvation. You can fall on the stone of the Lord Jesus Christ today and be saved. If you reject Him, then the stone will fall upon you and grind you to dust - and you will blow away in the wind. You will have to come to Christ as a broken sinner. When your spirit is broken, and your heart is shattered, then you will turn to Christ – not until then – but when it does happen, you will finally have landed on the foundation that no man can lay. The Lord Jesus Christ is the stone of foundation that never shakes or moves. Daniel speaks of that stone to come in his prophecy. The Lord Jesus returns in judgment, friends. I'm just not sure how this could be so wildly misunderstood today because it should be as clear as the noon day sun - but it isn't....

***18 Every one that falleth on that stone shall be broken to pieces; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will scatter him as dust.***

***19 And the scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him in that very hour; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he spake this parable against them.***

~ They were right; the Lord Jesus sure had spoken this against the Pharisee's and since they weren't through tempting Him – He wasn't through confounding them! I think they actually got the point, but too many people in our churches miss it today, to be sure. So, the Herodians continue the insincere line of questioning and it only reveals they are a bunch of hypocrites. As we have learned previously, the Herodians were a political group who sought to end the rule of Caesar and place Herod on the throne over Israel....

***20 And they watched him, and sent forth spies, who feigned themselves to be righteous, that they might take hold of his speech, so as to deliver him up to the rule and to the authority of the governor.***

***21 And they asked him, saying, Teacher, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, and acceptest not the person [of any], but of a truth teachest the way of God:***

***22 Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?***

***23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them,***

***24 Show me a denarius. Whose image and superscription hath it? And they said, Caesar's.***

***25 And he said unto them, Then render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's.***

***26 And they were not able to take hold of the saying before the people: and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace.***

***27 And there came to him certain of the Sadducees, they that say that there is no resurrection;***

***28 and they asked him, saying, Teacher, Moses wrote unto us, that if a man's brother die, having a wife, and he be childless, his brother should take the wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.***

~ The Sadducee's are the worst possible crowd of all, to be sure and, although they were correct in quoting the most unusual law from Deuteronomy chapter twenty-five at verse five, they simply were not sincere. Well, friends, Jesus knows our hearts - and He knew these Pharisee's hearts at this time. The Sadducee's didn't even believe in the resurrection! So, this ridiculous question was answered completely to our satisfaction in Matthew and Mark - and again here by Jesus; with Matthew

adding that the Lord Jesus called them ignorant of the Word of God and ignorant of the power of God.

The Sadducee's are, very definitely, the liberal church - and it is what we see in organized religion today. We don't hear much from them in the Bible and Scripture dwells heavily on the Pharisee's, to be sure. There seem to be more accounts of the scribes and Herodian's than of the Sadducee's. The Sadducee's had a long history arising as a sect about the year 300 BC. Most of the high priests and temple politicians were Sadducee's; generally, they were the most prominent and richest segment of society. Today, it is laughable to argue against the statement that every single one of the rich churches and rich church leaders are completely liberal. Human nature hasn't changed since the days of the Bible, friends. Human nature just happens to be bad all the time.

The Sadducee's denied anything supernatural altogether and they stripped the Scriptures of it completely. To the Sadducee, no realm of miraculous exists. Luke describes them in Acts chapter twenty-three verse eight. The Sadducee was in conflict with the Pharisee in all religious points. The Sadducee's denied the authority of Scripture. They would never have accepted the inerrancy of Scripture. The Sadducee is a strikingly similar corollary to the liberal today, although they have several different contemporary names. Liberalism is really a contradiction, because professionals in politics, theology and religion are the most narrow-minded people you will ever met in your life - and there are many of them. They encompass a radical departure from mainstream Christianity.

In fact, the contemporary church is so far removed from historic Christianity and the reformed faith of Protestantism that the following statement was made many years ago: "... the difference is so great between [conservatives and liberalism in the church] that one or the other will soon slander the term 'Christian.'" Honestly, I personally do not see how the liberal could possibly be a Christian in any sense of the word. I think there are many churches that should drop the term "Christian" from their program. There was a time when the unregenerate stayed outside the church as they denied the authority of Scripture and the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, most of them have a pulpit and a building that they

meet in - and most of them call it a church - and they pick and choose from the Bible as it fits their needs. They still deny His deity and they still deny the miraculous and supernatural, but they've joined the church! You could say this group has "crept into the church unawares!"

The Sadducee's had risen to power in Israel at this time, and they had come to control politics from Jerusalem. The major denominations are all controlled by liberalism, without question. Some preachers of mega-churches will admit very frankly they do not believe one needs to be born again. Some have made the statement that their children did not have any need to be born again. That son committed suicide in his late teen years. I'm not sure where people get the idea that their children are any different from the drunk laying in the gutter or the prostitute on the street. We all have the same fallen human nature, but the liberals do not take that position – they reject it completely.

The Sadducee's were the biggest enemies Christ had; and they were the main instigators of the persecution in the early church. After Christ was crucified, the Pharisee's were largely converted but the Sadducee's really ramped up the persecution. In Acts chapters four and five those are Sadducee's doing the persecuting. Today, the liberal talks incessantly about church unity while simultaneously causing the greatest divisions the church has ever had. The resurrection was the acid test of a Sadducee in that day, and it is the acid test of the liberal today. Most won't argue the death of Christ, but they cannot get past the literal bodily resurrection. They make no sense.

There are no Biblical accounts of any Sadducee ever coming to Christ. We have already seen Pharisee's, publican's, rich men and scribes converted – but no Sadducee's. Acts tells us a great company of the priests were obedient unto the faith. There is no Biblical basis to think that any liberal preacher will ever turn to God! Liberals get farther and farther away from the truth with every word they utter.

The preaching of the cross is an offense, my beloved - and you will never get popular preaching it. People aren't going to agree with you and vote you to be the most outstanding citizen in town; it's just not going to

happen. That man will never find himself in some great political position and he won't be on T.V. strutting his stuff. It's very, very easy to throw the Gospel overboard and become a popular and well-paid preacher. Behind all of it – like Judas – they sell Jesus! Peter may have denied Jesus, but Peter loved Jesus - and Peter came back to Him. Once you sell Christ for your own popularity, you're never coming back – you can just write that down!

The liberal and the Sadducee was the biggest Scripture-quoting enemy God has ever had in any century throughout the ages. The liberal can quote the Bible but they always have a hidden agenda. The problem with these Sadducee's in the Bible at the time we are studying is they are totally and completely ignorant of Holy Writ. They're also ignorant of the power of God. Not many things really amaze me, but the ignorance of the liberal sometimes does....

***29 There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died childless;***

***30 and the second:***

***31 and the third took her; and likewise the seven also left no children, and died.***

***32 Afterward the woman also died.***

***33 In the resurrection therefore whose wife of them shall she be? for the seven had her to wife.***

***34 And Jesus said unto them, The sons of this world marry, and are given in marriage:***

***35 but they that are accounted worthy to attain to that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:***

***36 for neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.***



***37 But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in [the place concerning] the Bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.***

***38 Now he is not the God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.***

***39 And certain of the scribes answering said, Teacher, thou hast well said.***

***40 For they durst not any more ask him any question.***

***41 And he said unto them, How say they that the Christ is David's son?***

***42 For David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,***

***43 Till I make thine enemies the footstool of thy feet.***

***44 David therefore calleth him Lord, and how is he his son?***

***45 And in the hearing of all the people he said unto his disciples,***

***46 Beware of the scribes, who desire to walk in long robes, and love salutations in the marketplaces, and chief seats in the synagogues, and chief places at feasts;***

***47 who devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater condemnation.***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God concludes this report with Jesus turning the question around on the scribes. They dared not ask any more, but Jesus dared tell them more. Jesus is going to have some questions for you and me someday, too, friends - and we will do well to have the answers. David called Jesus Lord because the virgin birth would make it so. There would have been no other way for this to be possible, either ~

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