

STAGE 3: JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE: 19:45-46

- When Jesus enters the Temple – His Father’s House! – (Cf. Luke 2:50)
He **finds** worldly business going on **but** the type of business that **DESTROYS** the worship of the True God: [Read Malachi 3:1-3]

Abuse of Religion { • The priests in the Temple **ONLY** used **the shekel**, so there were money-changers there – to make a profit in the exchange.
- this made the buying of sheep / goats etc. **much more expensive**

Abuse of Religion { • There were people there **selling** animals – at **an exorbitant price** because the priests refused to take the animals from their farms.
- they only accepted sheep and lambs that had been reared specially in Bethlehem – for the Temple.

- ⓃB • **Now** that the **LAMB OF GOD** had **arrived** for the **great Sacrifice of Redemption** all this other stuff was unacceptable – **an abomination**.

- ⓃB • Jesus had already told us in Luke 16:15 that *“what is thought highly of by men is loathsome in the eyes of God.”*

- ⓃB • Jesus’ entry into the Temple **shocked** everyone!
- it was about the **last thing** they expected!

- Luke explains this event in Acts 7:1-53 where Stephen told the story of Israel’s rejection of God from the beginning of her History.
- Following Isaiah 56:7 **Jesus declared God’s House to be a PLACE of Prayer** – not worldly business!
- a place for worship and communion with God – **not** extortion

Is 56:7 *“I will make them joyful in my House of Prayer... for my House will be called a House of Prayer **FOR ALL THE PEOPLE’S**”*

- ⓃB • From now on Jesus was making access to God **FOR EVERYONE**

REACTION of THE LEADERS to THE CLEANSING OF TEMPLE: 19:47-48

- 19: 47** • Outwardly they said and **did** nothing, but in their fury they plotted to destroy Him...
Even though **they** would recognise the fulfilment of prophesy
- This is **not the first time** they wanted to kill him!
 - They did not succeed before, **but this time they will** because they **drew Judas**, the Apostle, into their camp. Cf. Lk 22:4-6
- Cf. Luke 6:11 - in the Synagogue Lk 4:28-30 – the Nazarene

Finally

At the end of Chapter 19 and before we approach the Passion,
Luke is anxious for us to see something he has pointed out **on other occasions**:

(NB) (ie) The **difference** between the **acceptance** of the **ordinary people (LAOS)**
and the **rejection** of the **Leaders**
from the beginning to the end of the story of Jesus.

CHAPTER 20

Chapters 20 and 21: Third and Final Stage of Jesus' Ministry

- His journey finishes in Jerusalem – the last stop on His Final Journey back to God – where Jesus came from - back to his origin.
- Here we find: (i) The **final** confrontation with the Leaders
(ii) The **prophecy** about the Destruction of Jerusalem and the End Times.

A. Confrontation with the Leaders: 20:1-8

- The enemies of Jesus now come out into the open:
 - (i) **Chief Priests** – who came mainly from the ranks of **SADDUCEES**
– their functions were in the Temple
 - (ii) **Scribes** – who were the recognised **TEACHERS** of Israel.
They taught both in the Temple and the Synagogue.
- **Pharisees** are not mentioned here because they worked in the **local** Synagogues.
- Jesus came into conflict with the Scribes both in the Synagogue **and** in the Temple.
 - His teaching conflicted with theirs...
- ⓃB • The Scribes **teamed-up** with the Pharisees as Jesus travelled the land
 - **now** they **team-up** with the **Chief Priests** in the Temple

The Topic: Jesus' Authority: 20:2-7

- 1) This is a public confrontation with **both CP & Scribes with the People present**.
- 2) **The people** accept Jesus' authority – demonstrated throughout His Ministry
 - they have just acclaimed Him **King**
 - “ “ listened to His Teaching
 - “ “ followed Him
- 3) Jesus' authority comes from God – not man.
 - He refused the authority – **Exousia** – offered to Him by Satan to rule the world when in the wilderness: (4:6)
- 4) By His words and works Jesus showed that **He possessed** the authority and power – **EXOUSIA** – of the **Kingdom of God**.
 - (i) He spoke with authority: **4:32**
 - (ii) He gave orders to demons **“with authority and power”** and they obeyed **4:36**
 - (iii) He has the authority to forgive sin: **5:24**
 - (iv) Jesus also **gave authority** to others:
9:1 He gave His Apostles **‘power and authority’** over all devils...
10:19 **“I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions”**
- 5) **The leaders** demand **now** to know **“by what authority”** Jesus has just cleansed the Temple!
 - They **understood it** as a prophetic action... (Malachi 3:1-3)
 - **They know** that it was **necessary**!

But

- The leaders did not accept that **Jesus** had **Authority from God**
- If they did, there would have been **no Passion Narrative!**

(NB) Jesus responds to the Leaders with **Divine Wisdom** – which they cannot handle! He reads their minds and **knows** that their question is not sincere. Hence He throws the challenge back to them

- Where did **John, the Baptist's authority** come from?
 - If they had accepted John – they would accept Jesus!
 - For John prepared for Jesus **and** proclaimed who He was!! Cf. Lk 3:15-18

(NB) It was **their duty** as Leaders **to discern who the Christ was**, and then proclaim this to the people.

- yet they refused John's Baptism, so they **cannot** say that his baptism was from God – **BUT IT WAS!!**

(NB) The leaders **could** not say that John's baptism was **from men either**, because the people had **already discerned** (19:47-48) both in the case of John **and** Jesus.

20:7 The leaders replied that **"they did not know"**!

- a clear dereliction of duty to the people!
- Jesus knew – of course – that it was **a refusal** to answer, so He followed suit and refused to answer the question regarding His own Authority.

B. The Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen 20:9-19

Jesus addressed His Parable to the people **in the presence of leaders**

- it is a response to the Leaders – see 20:19

- (i) The man who planted the Vineyard **is God Himself**: Cf. Is 5:17 Cf. Jer. 2:21 Cf. Ezek 15: 1-8
- (ii) **God's Vineyard** is left in the hands of **the Leaders** both **in the Old Testament and New Testament**.
- (iii) At intervals God sent a servant – **a Prophet** - to gather the produce of His Vineyard – but they were treated badly by the leaders...
- (iv) Finally, God sent **His only Son** ... and they killed him!

20:16-17 The Judgement of the Leaders

- (i) The leaders will be destroyed (AD 70 - 135)
- (ii) The Vineyard given to others – New Testament

(ie) Those who will destroy Jesus } will themselves be destroyed }
AD30 } AD70 }

(ie) There are consequences to our actions!

(NB) God's Vineyard **was** given to the Gentiles!!

20:16 The **people** are shocked to hear the revelation from Jesus

- but Jesus goes back to the **very Psalm THEY quoted** at His Entry into Jerusalem Ps 118, but now gives them vs 22... they had quoted vs 26

*It was the stone rejected by the builders } It is the stone which
that became the **KEYSTONE** } is victorious*

- **Jesus is THE STONE** rejected by the leaders of Israel, who became the Head and Leader of the K.O.G. Cf. 1 Pet 2:6-8; Cf. Dan 2:34, 7:13-14,27

20:18 *“anyone who falls on that stone will be dashed to pieces
anyone it falls on will be crushed”* } Notice that it is the stone who has Authority from God!

(NB) Jesus’ authority in K.O.G. is very well illustrated here. **He has final say in the destiny of man.**

- (i) Those (Leaders) who fell on Jesus to kill him **died themselves** in AD70.
- (ii) In His Second coming if The Stone comes **on me** in Judgement we will be destroyed – **but FOREVER!**

20:19 **Reaction:** The leaders would have fallen on Him there and then but for the people!
Note that Jesus is not concerned about Himself but to try and warn the leaders of the danger **they are in!**

The Impartiality of Jesus: 20:20-26

Since Jesus was **exposing** the Leaders **before the eyes of the people** they decide to move quickly **to trap Jesus** in any way they could.

- They cannot **destroy Jesus** themselves for they had **no authority to crucify (destroy)** Him, so they look for a way to deliver Him up to the Roman Governor and let **him** do the dirty work **for them**

(NB) - They succeeded in doing this **only with the help of Judas!**

(NB) - They failed to trap Him in His words or actions...

- To succeed they **hide behind SPIES** who pretend to be Good People...
- Insincerely they (spies) proclaim that **Jesus is impartial**... then they try to trap Him on a **Political issue** of paying taxes to Caesar.

20:23 Jesus was aware of their cunning and He reduced **them** to silence by acknowledging that **legitimate** authority **must** be recognised in **taxes** paid by the people.

- But since God’s Government of His Creation demands everything from us, we **should** give ourselves to God – since **we** are made in **His** Image and Likeness.
- Commercial coins carry the image of the Caesar /King / Leader
- We have images on our paper money also...

(NB) Jesus said *‘pay both God and man their due’* ∴ illustrating His impartiality.

The Lordship of Jesus: 20:27-44

In this section the Sadducees set a **religious trap** for Jesus
- so, they tell Him a fictitious story about 1 woman and 7 husbands.

- 20:28**
- They address Jesus as “Teacher” – since they do not believe in Him.
 - Their story refers to Moses’ teaching about **LEVIRATE MARRIAGE**: Cf. Deut 25:5 Gen 38:8
 - According to **this law** a man was obliged to take his dead brother’s wife and beget children who would receive **his brother’s name** and inheritance when his brother had died **childless**.

So, the story told by the Sadducees showed – in their minds – the ridiculousness of the idea of the resurrection – whose wife would she be **then**?

- 20:35** **Jesus’ reply:** Marriage is only for **earthly** life *“until death do us part”*.
- Those judged **worthy** of the resurrection (of the **just** only, here)
 - **In the resurrection** – which **Jesus absolutely affirms** – marriage and procreation are no longer needed.
 - Those who are glorified live like the angels - as **Sons of God**
 - Hence the woman and the seven husbands will **all be individuals** and their **former relationships** will not be relevant, since **all** will be united together – in God.

(NB) **Jesus proved the resurrection of the dead FROM SCRIPTURE!**

- 20:37-38** In Exodus 3:6, God affirmed that all were **alive** in Him. **He is the God of THE LIVING**
“For, to Him all men are in FACT alive

Jesus now Challenges the Scholars / Leaders: 20:41-44

On the interpretation of Scripture:

- **The Challenge is: is the Christ merely human or is he divine also?**
Ps 110:1: King David – a human lord – calls the Messiah “Lord” – Adonai . Since David calls him **Divine**, how **can** he be David’s “son”? **‘Son of David’** was one of the **titles for Christ**.

* The Psalm sees the Lord (Christ) at the Lord’s (God’s) right hand until Christ’s enemies are vanquished.

Cf. Stephen in Acts 7:55 saw this reality: *“Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into Heaven and saw the Glory of God, and Jesus standing a God’s Right hand.*

- (NB)** • Thus, Jesus showed that the Scribes **were wrong in presenting the Christ as merely human!!**