



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

---

LESSON 17 - STUDY QUESTIONS  
LUKE 20:20-21:38

### DAY ONE

1. What idea from the Scripture in last week's lesson (Lesson 16, Luke 19:11 through Luke 20:19) did you find disconcerting or worrisome?

Read Luke 20:20-26

2a. Today's lesson states that the scribes and chief priests were watching Jesus. What did they do and for what reason (first part of verse 20)?

b. Why did they want to arrest Him?

NOTE: The governor of the Roman province of Judea under Emperor Tiberius was Pontius Pilate. Pilate was responsible for the collection of taxes and maintenance of order. Rome conquered Judea in 63 BC. Judea was the Roman name for Israel at that time. The Jewish leadership had no right under Roman law to execute anyone; the Romans maintained *Ius Gladii* (the right of the sword).

3a. What did they then say to flatter Jesus (verse 21)?

b. Record their question to Him and comment on how it was meant to trick Him (verse 22).

4a. Perceiving their craftiness Jesus responded by asking to see a Roman coin called a denarius. What question did He ask about it (verse 24)?

b. When they answered that the coin carried the emperor's head (verse 25), He told them what they should do with it. Record His words.

THINK: Ironically, God created Caesar (man) in His Own Image (Genesis 1:27); however, the implication is clear. What affect has this statement of Jesus had on civil society in the Christian west?

5. Since the scribes and chief priests were not able to trap Jesus by what He said, what was their reaction (verse 26)?

6. CONNECTION: Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. These words from the Gospel of Luke and other similar statements in the Bible have been helpful in establishing boundaries between Church and State in the United States and in other historically Christian nations. These boundaries protect freedom of religion as well as freedom to be without religion. Unfortunately, in some societies, a "state" religion rules both civil and religious life, which can ruin both sectors of society. Let us remember how lucky we are to have religious freedom. Perhaps you may even be a descendant of a family member who experienced religious intolerance! Share with your small group a specific reason to be thankful for our hard-earned religious freedom.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God?" (Thomas Jefferson 1781)  
Write a prayer asking that this precious freedom endure in our country.

DAY TWO

Read Luke 20:27-40

7a. Who were the next people to confront Jesus after the Scribes and chief priests who questioned Him in yesterday's lesson? Describe them from verse 27.

b. Intending to mock Jesus' belief in the resurrection of the dead, the Sadducees planned to ask Jesus a question which required an absurd interpretation of Mosaic Law. Record the

command that Moses prescribed for a Jewish man to fulfill his duty to his dead brother and his widow (verse 28.)

8a. Summarize the unlikely hypothetical situation the Sadducees described in verses 29-32.

b. What was their “gotcha” question to Jesus (verse 33)?

9a. Jesus answered the Sadducees’ question by contrasting marriage on earth to a very different situation in heaven (verse 34). Summarize the two different situations from verses 34-35.

b. How did He further explain His answer in verse 36?

10a. Jesus then explained how Moses himself (in the Book of Exodus) showed that the dead are raised. How did Moses speak of the Lord according to verse 37?

b. What was Jesus' conclusion from this in verse 38?

11. Some of the scribes, who believed in the resurrection, complimented Jesus on His answer to the Sadducees and no longer dared to question Him (verses 39-40). Record their compliment.

12. CONNECTION: In today’s time, as well as in Jesus’ time, opponents of Christianity and also Catholicism often have misguided ideas regarding what we believe. Like the Sadducees they sometimes think up outlandish hypotheticals to challenge our beliefs. For example when John F. Kennedy ran for President they were concerned that the Pope would run the country. U.S. Bishop Fulton Sheen once said, “There are not one hundred people in the United States who hate The Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be.” How do you increase your knowledge about your faith so that you can handle questions from non-believers?

Read and record Colossians 4:6 and begin your prayer today asking the Holy Spirit to inspire you when your faith is questioned.

DAY THREE

Read Luke 20:41-21:4

13. In today's lesson, Jesus asked the scribes a question which would challenge their ability to interpret scriptures. Record His question from verse 41.

14a. Jesus then quoted a psalm of King David (Psalm 110:1 in our translation) which points to the divinity of the Messiah (and therefore His own divinity). Record the quote from the second part of verse 42 and the first line of verse 43.

NOTE: In this passage God ("the Lord") calls the Messiah "my Lord" and has Him sit at His right hand. This shows that God and the Messiah are of equal authority. Jesus Christ Our Savior, "Son of David," sits at the Father's right hand in heaven.

b. What difficult question does Jesus then ask the scribe (which they were apparently unable to answer) (verse 44)?

15a. In the hearing of all the people Jesus told His disciples to beware of the scribes (verses 45-47). What three things did He warn them of in verse 46?

b. What other bad things did the scribes do and what will happen to them because of their actions (verse 47)?

16. As Chapter 21 begins, Jesus was teaching in the Jerusalem Temple where He saw rich people put gifts into the treasury (verse 1). He also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins (verse 2). Who did He say gave more (verse 3)?

17. Jesus has denounced the scribes for their greed and arrogance (Luke 20:45-47). Now He disparaged the wealthy givers, preferring the tiny donation of the poor widow. In your own words explain why Jesus was pleased with the widow's offering.

18. CONNECTION: In today's lesson the Jews of Jesus' time looked back longingly at King David and his glorious nation and the prophecies that a messiah from David's line would rise to lead them. While the Jewish nation awaits an earthly king, Jesus gently reminds them that God's kingdom is not built on earthly glory and gain, but on faith, love, and belief in the possibility of an everlasting life. In the debates between Jesus and the Jewish leadership (over the payment of taxes, the resurrection of the dead, and showy contributions by the rich) Jesus reminds them subtly that all things are God's and we owe Him everything. What we can offer him is the gift of a faithful and generous spirit. Share with your small group some ways in which you or someone you know gives from the heart.

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and write a prayer today asking God to open your heart to the needs of others and make you grateful for His abundant gifts.

#### DAY FOUR

Read Luke 21:5-19

19a. As today's lesson begins, some were speaking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God. This led to a discussion about end times. What did Jesus say about the temple (verse 6)?

b. His listeners asked when the end would come and what would be the sign. Instead of answering, He warned them not to be led astray by false prophets. What will the false prophets claim (verse 8) and what are Jesus' followers not to do?

20a. Jesus then told them of a time when they will "hear of wars and insurrections." Why did He say they should not be terrified (verse 9)?

b. Then He told them that "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (verse 10). What more did He say to describe this end time (verses 11)?

21a. Before all this occurs, what terrible things will happen to them because of His name (verse 12)?

b. Jesus told them that these trials would give them the opportunity to testify of their faith in Him. How will He help them prepare? Summarize from verses 14-15

22. Jesus warned them of betrayal and persecution, even death, and even by family and friends (verse 16). Why would they be hated according to verse 17?

23. Record the beautiful assurances in verses 18 and 19.

24. CONNECTION: “But not a hair of your head will perish. By endurance you will gain your souls.” Most of us have not experienced the terrible things listed in this passage but hope that all of the catastrophes Jesus mentioned (war, earthquakes, famine, plagues, arrest, betrayal, hate) will not happen to us. Jesus emphasizes what we can and should do when faced with a calamity: Do not be led astray; be prepared to testify; rely on Him for words and wisdom; and most of all endure to the end in our faith in Him. Describe to your small group what would be the most frightening of these things and what you would do (or have done) to endure.

Read Colossians 1:11-12, record verse 11 and the beginning of verse 12, and let thoughts of God's faithful care lead you into prayer.

DAY FIVE

Read Luke 21:20-28

25a. As today's passage begins, Jesus talks of the destruction of Jerusalem (which would take place in the year AD 70). How did Jesus warn them of what was to come (verse 20)?

b. There were many prophecies in the Old Testament about the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Read one of the following and record the phrase(s) that speak to you of the destruction:

Jeremiah 6:6

Daniel 9:26

Micah 3:9-12

26a. What did He tell them to do when Jerusalem is threatened and why (verses 21-22)?

b. Record Jesus' lament in the first line of verse 23.

27a. Summarize what five things will happen to the Jewish people “until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (end of verse 23 and 24).

b. At this point Jesus appears to transition from prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 to prophecies of end times. Record the geological and astronomical phenomena predicted by Christ (verse 25).

28a. As a result of these terrible things, people will faint from fear and foreboding. For what reasons will this happen (verse 26)?

b. What glorious thing will they see after all of this (verse 27)?

29. What did Jesus tell them (and us) to do at that time?

30. CONNECTION: The second part of this lesson described Jesus' predictions for end times. Leaders of various religions have predicted many dates for the end of the world: 1000, 1600, 1843, 1914, 1925, 1969, 1988, 2000, and 2012, among many others. Today some believe Jesus will secretly return at any moment and "rapture" Christians out of the world to keep them from suffering during the "tribulation." But in this week's passage Jesus told us that when "many will come and say ... the time is near" we should not believe them or follow them. Instead of worrying about what might happen let us look forward to the day when we see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. Share with your small group what you can do to prepare for that day.

Read 2 Peter 3:10-14, select and record one verse, and begin your prayer today thanking God for the great gift of His Son.

DAY SIX

Read Luke 21:29-38

31. Continuing with His discourse on end times, Jesus told His disciples to look at the fig tree and all the trees, saying that as soon as they sprout leaves one can tell that summer is already near (verses 29-30). What was His conclusion in verse 31?

32. In verse 32 Jesus told the disciples that "this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place," indicating that God's judgment on Jerusalem would happen during their lifetimes. How did Jesus emphasize the perpetual truth of His words in verse 33?

33a. In verse 34 Jesus told his disciples to be on guard. For what should they be on guard?

b. Give His reason from verse 35.

34. Jesus warned His disciples again in verse 36 to be alert at all times and to pray. For what two things should they pray?



35a. Every day He was teaching in the Temple, and at night He would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. How did all the people react to Him (verse 38)?

b. How would you compare the attitude of the people toward Jesus with the attitude of the Chief Priests and Scribes?

36. CONNECTION: In this passage Jesus told us to be alert, praying for the strength to escape “all these things that will take place” and to stand before the Son of Man. He does not want the last day to catch us unexpectedly like a trap. If our hearts are weighed down with bad habits, worries, and distractions we will not be ready for that day. Prayer helps us focus on the present and come to terms with our regrets for the past and our fears for the future. With prayer we can let our worries float up to heaven, thereby lightening our hearts and giving us courage to stand before the Son of Man. What do you do to live in the present, in order to make every day a great "last day?" Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Psalm 118:24 and pray to be alert and strong in your Faith today and every day.

After completing this lesson, read pages 130-138 in the *The Gospel According to Luke* by Michael F. Patella, O.S.B. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

©Copyright 2015. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study

[thecornerstonescripturestudy.org](http://thecornerstonescripturestudy.org)