

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 22, 2009

Passage: Luke 20:1-18

Memory Passage:

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 20:1-2.** The Pharisees have already tried to debate the content of Jesus' message, now they are resorting to questioning His authority. Why is it important to know where Jesus' authority comes from?
- (b) Why should it be evident to the Pharisees where Jesus' authority comes from (Luke 11:14-18)?
- (c) In the Old Testament, who are the three types of people who have religious and spiritual authority (Exodus 28:1; Deuteronomy 13:1-3; 17:14-20)? How do each one of these people receive their office?
- (d) Read Luke 1:26-33; 3:21-22; 3:23-31; 2 Samuel 7:12-17; Hebrews 5:6-10. What do these passages say about Jesus' authority? What kind of authority does Jesus hold?
- (e) *Think about it:* Read Matthew 28:16-20. Why do you think it was important for Jesus to let His disciples know that He has been given "all authority"? The opposite of doubt is faith. So when we doubt, it is a crisis of faith not of works or ability. What can we do when we are struggling with doubt (Mark 9:22-24; Romans 3:21-22; Psalm 37:3-5)?
- (f) *Something to do:* Pray and if you are doubting let God know about it. He is the giver of all good gifts. Talk to someone about your doubts because when we expose darkness to the light we gain strength over our sin and doubts. If you don't doubt, take the time to encourage someone you know in their walk with the Lord (send an email, give them a phone call).

(g) *Family:* Read Luke 20:1-2. Talk about the attitude of the Pharisees. Why is it important to know where Jesus' authority comes from? Do you think the Pharisees should have already known this? Why or Why not? Talk about the three offices of authority in the Old Testament and how they received them. Read passages from (d). What kind of authority does Jesus have? Believing in Jesus is trusting in Him and His authority and submitting yourself to His authority. What do you struggle with trusting in Jesus for? Give that over to Him and trust that He will see you through.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 20:3-8.** Who was John the Baptist (Luke 1)? What was his ministry like (Luke 3)? What did he call the people, including the religious leaders, to do?
- (b) How is Jesus raising the stakes by asking them where the baptism of John was from? What do the leaders reveal about themselves during their debate?
- (c) The leaders reveal something about their own authority from God, namely that they don't have any. If they did have authority from God, how would they have responded? By whose authority did the leaders act?
- (d) What would it have meant for them to believe John was a prophet? Why did they see it as a threat to their own authority?
- (e) *Think about it:* Do you recognize God's authority over your life? How do you submit things like your money, retirement, job, family, driving, marriage or free time over to God? What does submitting to God's control and authority look like (Proverbs 3:5-6; John 15:4-5)?
- (f) *Something to do:* Pray that you would submit your life to Christ every moment of the day. Read Romans 8:1. Share with someone something that you struggle with submitting to God.
- (g) *Family:* Read Luke 20:3-8. Talk about John the Baptist, who he was, what he did, what message he preached. Why did the religious leaders not like him? What was at stake for them to admit that John the Baptist was sent from God? What does it mean for you to recognize Jesus' authority over your own life? How would this change the way you go to work, school, obey parents or bosses? Believing in Christ is partly trusting and submitting to His authority over your own life. Pray that you would have this attitude of prayer and submission to God.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 20:9-12.** Who is the man who planted the vineyard? What does the vineyard represent (Genesis 12:1-3; Deuteronomy 28:1-14)? Who do the tenants represent?
- (b) Who do the servants who the owner sends back represent? How are each of these treated? How does this description of the treatment of the servants parallel the history of Israel? How has Israel historically treated such people (1Kings 18:13; 22:24-27; 2Kings 6:31; 2Chron 24:19-22)?
- (c) When did the tenant send the servant? What does the fruit of the vineyard represent?
- (d) *Think about it:* This parable is a little parallel of the history of Israel. What does it say about God's patience and graciousness that He was willing to send servant after servant? How have you seen this patience and graciousness play out in your own life?
- (e) *Something to do:* Take some time thinking over your own history with obeying God. Read Joel 2:13; Ephesians 2:1-9. Praise God for His patient and steadfast love. Practice this same patience that God has for with others around you when you are wronged and treated unfairly.

(f) *Family*: Read 20:9-12. Talk about whom everybody represents in the passage. What does the vineyard represent? Talk about the history of Israel and the patience God had for them. Is God this patient with us? Why? Do we deserve it? Why not? How should we treat others in light of God's patience for us? Pray that God would give you patience and love for others even when you are treated wrongly or unfairly.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 20:13-16.** Who does the son in this passage represent? Was God unsure when He sent Jesus of what was going to happen to Him (Isaiah 53:1-12; John 10:17-18)?
- (b) The tenants believe that if they kill the son then they will receive the inheritance. Why doesn't this make sense? What does this say about their belief in the power of the owner?
- (c) Why would the people listening to the parable be shocked at the owner's reaction to the death of his son? What might this judgment be alluding to (What happened in Jerusalem in A.D. 70)?
- (d) *Think about it*: Why are we surprised that people don't understand the gospel? What does scripture say about our state before salvation (Romans 3:10-12; Jeremiah 17:9)? How should we feel toward those who don't know the Lord (Matthew 9:36)? Do you feel this way about them?
- (e) *Something to do*: Pray that the Lord would send workers into the harvest. Pray that the Lord would give you an opportunity to share the gospel and courage when the time comes.
- (f) *Family*: Read Luke 20:13-16. Talk about what everything represents in the passage. Why would the tenants think that they could get away with killing the son? Talk about the state in which people are in who are not Christians. Why is it that they don't believe in God? How should we feel toward them? What should we do? Pray for the Lord to work in the hearts of some people that you know who don't know Jesus.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 20:17-18.** Jesus quotes a well-known messianic passage in response to the crowd's disbelief. Why does He quote an Old Testament prophecy? How would quoting this passage shift their thinking on how the Messiah was to be treated?
- (b) What is a cornerstone? What is Jesus the cornerstone of (1Peter 2:4-7)?
- (c) Read Acts 4:10-12. How does Peter use the same verse? So, what is Jesus alluding to by saying that anyone who falls on the stone will be broken and when it falls on anyone they will be crushed (Isaiah 8:14-15; 1Peter 2:8; Revelation 20)? Who are those that fall on it and who are those whom it falls on?
- (d) Jesus is said to be a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles in 1Corinthians. What about the Messiah is a stumbling block to the Jews and why is it foolishness to the Gentiles (1Corinthians 1:20-25)?
- (e) *Think about it*: Do you ever feel the need to make the gospel seem less foolish or less offensive to your friends or relatives? Why do you feel like you have to do that? What should our reaction be to the scoffs of others for what we believe (1Corinthians 1:28-31)?
- (f) *Something to do*: Pray for boldness in those times that your faith is tested. "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men." Praise God that He chose to reveal His power through the cross.
- (g) *Family*: Read Luke 20:17-18. Talk about the meaning of Jesus being the cornerstone. Why does Jesus end this parable with a warning? Who is Jesus talking about when he says "everyone who falls"? What is Jesus talking about when He says "when it falls"? Talk about why people stumble over Jesus and His death on the Cross as the means of salvation. Pray for friends and family that don't know the Gospel and for boldness in standing up for the Gospel.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What has stuck out this week for you? Are you walking daily under the authority of Christ? Are you experiencing the freedom that walking under His power brings? Is Jesus the cornerstone of your life? How do we build our lives on Jesus? Pray that the Lord would give you insight into His word and a submissive heart to Him and to others.

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Kingdom Authority

"the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"