

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 29, 2009

Passage: Luke 20:19-40

Memory Passage: Romans 8:34

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 20:19-20.** Look back on the previous passage to see why they wanted to lay hands on Jesus right then. What was the reason? What kept them from responding immediately?
- (b) What does it say about their own beliefs that they were not willing to respond openly to Jesus?
- (c) Their response was to spy and sneak around. Who is the governor that they wish to hand Jesus over to (Luke 3:1)? What does it say about their hatred for Jesus that they were willing to use the Romans to further their desires?
- (d) *Think about it:* When we truly believe something is wrong how are we supposed to act (1 Peter 3:13-17)? When we know something is wrong and we still want to do it what do we often do (John 3:19-21)? Is there anything that you are doing in the dark? What is it?
- (e) *Something to do:* Read John 3:19-21. When sin is hidden, it eats away at us and controls us, but when we expose it to the light it loses its power. If there is sin in your life that you are hiding, confess it to God and receive forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13). Now share your struggle with a trusted friend or spouse because the more you allow sin and more importantly God's gracious forgiveness of your sin to be exposed the more freedom you will have (Eccl. 4:9-12).
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 20:19-20. Talk about why the Pharisees are so angry and want to lay hands on Jesus. Do you think they knew what they wanted was wrong? Why or why not? What did they do to try to hurt Jesus? Have you ever acted like them trying to sneak around and hide things from other people? Was what you were doing good or bad? When we are doing what we know is right, how do we act? Is there anything that you are trying to hide? Read John 3:19-21. Talk about how exposing sin to light gives us freedom in Christ. Pray that you would walk in the light of Christ and in His forgiveness.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 20:21-26.** What are these people attempting to do in this passage? How are they attempting to accomplish this? What is their end goal?
- (b) These people compliment Jesus, but their intentions were evil. Read Romans 16:17-18. What warnings does Paul give against such people? Have you ever met such people? What were they like?
- (c) How do people end up like the scribes and leaders where they hate someone so much that they want to trap them?
- (d) What would have been the results of Jesus answering the question the way it was posed? Jesus asks for a coin and they produce one. What does their willingness to use such money say about their own attitude toward using Roman money?
- (e) What is Jesus affirming by saying that we are to "give to Caesar what is Caesar's" (1 Peter 2:13-17)? How does loyalty to our government show loyalty to God (Colossians 1:16)?
- (f) *Think about it:* How do we give to God what is God's (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)? Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Paul talks about how our bodies are not our own, but more than just our bodies are not our own. What other aspects of our lives are not our own (money, leisure time, hobbies, time in the car)? What are we supposed to do with them? What does that look like?
- (g) *Something to do:* Take one of the things that you thought of and ask God to show you how you can glorify Him through it. Share your results with others both good and bad.
- (h) *Family:* Read Luke 20:21-26. Talk about what the question means and its ramifications. How does Jesus avoid the obvious answers? What does Jesus convey by telling them to render to Caesar what is Caesar's? What does it mean for us to give to God what is God's? What is God's (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Revelation 4:11)? What is something that you need to give to God? Pray together that the Lord would bless your giving control over these areas and thank Him for how gracious He is to have given them to us in the first place.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 20:27-33.** Who were the Sadducees and what did they believe (look them up in a study bible or on wikipedia)? Why would this exclude the belief in the resurrection? Who were they normally in opposition to?
- (b) Summarize the problem that the Sadducees are trying to present to Jesus. What does their questioning of Jesus assume? What does it show that even the Sadducees are trying to question Jesus?

(c) Read Genesis 38:8-10 and Deuteronomy 25:5-10. Why would someone have to marry the spouse of their brother? What purpose does this serve? (Note: Even before the law was given to Moses that even during the time of the Patriarchs this was assumed to be a customary and morally required action.)

(d) *Think about it:* Jesus is surrounded by questioners on every side. Everyone is trying to catch Him in a trap. Everyone is an accuser. Have you ever been in a similar situation? What was it like? How does scripture encourage us when we are in such circumstances (1Peter 2:20-25)? What about with our sin when the great Accuser is tormenting us, what does scripture say then (Romans 8:1,31-35)?

(e) *Something to do:* Take some time today and think about what Peter and Paul say in 1Peter 2:20-25 and Romans 8:1,32-35. Often we don't feel like these things are true, but we can have faith that they are and walk by faith in the truth of God's word. If you are struggling, do that today; rest on God's truth and the righteousness that God gives by faith.

(f) *Family:* Read Luke 20:27-33 and Genesis 38:8-10. Talk about what you learned about the marrying of a dead brother's spouse. What purpose did it serve? Talk about who these Sadducees were and why they were questioning Jesus. What would it be like to be surrounded by people who were trying to trap you and catch you in sin? Have you ever felt like you were surrounded by accusers? Read Romans 8:31-35. Why are we able to walk without the fear of condemnation? Thank God that Jesus has become our great Advocate before the Father and that we can trust in Him and His righteousness as the defender of our faith.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 20:34-36.** This passage is one of a few passages that talk about what it will be like after the resurrection and what angels are like. What does this passage say about the nature of angels? What is the reason for this comparison?

(b) *OT Excursion:* Read Genesis 6:1-4. This passage in Luke is often used to help interpret this other passage. How might it help clarify what is being talked about? Who could the "sons of God" be? Why might this passage still allow for the "sons of God" to be fallen angels? What is the basic point of the passage regardless of one's interpretation of who "the sons of God" are?

(c) What is the reason given for why people are not given in marriage in heaven? How might Revelation 19:6-9 shed light on why we might not be given in marriage? Also, 1Corinthians 7:33-34?

(d) *Think about it:* Marriage is a beautiful picture of Christ relationship with his Church, but it is a temporary picture until the time when we will be joined with Christ. In your marriage, are you finding your purpose, fulfillment, or worth *primarily* in your spouse or in Christ? What are the dangers of finding those things *primarily* in your spouse? Christian spouses of non-believers often will exhibit large amounts of patience with their spouse, why do you think some Christians have such a hard time exhibiting patience with their Christian spouse?

(e) *Something to do:* The Great commandment says to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. When you are struggling with your spouse, ask yourself "am I loving the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind and strength?" Give the situation over to God and ask Him for help.

(f) *Family:* Read Luke 20:34-36. Talk about the implications of this passage. What will it be like after the resurrection? Why is marriage a temporary thing? How can your family be a picture of Christ and the Church to other families? Pray and ask God to use your family to be a picture of Christ's love and forgiveness to your neighbors and friends.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 20:37-40.** The Sadducees believed that there was no resurrection from the dead. What is the gist of Jesus argument to the contrary? Why did he use a reference in Exodus and not another clearer passage? What does this teach us about defending our faith against other people?

(b) *OT Excursion:* Read Daniel 12:2 and Job 19:25-27. What does Daniel teach us about what will happen at the resurrection? What does Job say we will be like in the resurrection? What does Job point to as his hope in the resurrection? Why is this important?

(c) What does Christ's resurrection establish (Romans 1:4)? Why is this important? Read Romans 6:1-14. What does this passage say about the power of Christ's resurrection in our own life?

(d) Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-28. Why are we to be pitied if Christ was not raised from the dead? Why does Paul say what he says in verse 13(see verse 23)? How was Christ's resurrection a first fruits (v23)?

(e) *Think about it:* Do these verses talk about going to heaven when we die as being our hope? What is to be our hope? Death is a real and inevitable thing, but as Christians we are not afraid of it because we know that Christ has been resurrected and we will partake in that resurrection. Are you honest with yourself that death is a reality (Hebrews 9:27)? It is our tendency to ignore eternity for the moment. How would your life change if you lived in light of these truths? Would you spend your money differently? Your time? Would you relate to others differently?

(f) *Something to do:* If you just breezed over the previous questions, take some time and really think about them. Think about how you spend your days and where your passions are. Be honest with God and yourself, no man can have two masters. Take some time with God and ask Him to reveal any blind spots. Then if needed, practice 1John 1:9 and walk in the grace of Christ!

(g) *Family:* Read Luke 20:37-40. Talk about what Jesus' response was. Why is He defending His position the way that He is? Why is the resurrection so important (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)? Why is Christ's resurrection so important (Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28)? Talk about how temporary life is and why we hope in the resurrection. As a family, are you living as temporary residence in a foreign land or do you have your "heart" settled in this land? What can you do as a family to live in light of the promise of the resurrection? Pray for direction in this and ask God to convict you in areas that you might be holding onto.

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? What did God speak to you about this week? Make a note of something in particular and share it on Sunday. When we talk about what God is doing in our life, it encourages the body, and more importantly, it glorifies God!

DATE: March 29, 2009

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The King Is Questioned
"they pretended to be sincere"