

Steve Greenberg's Handout

Week 41 May 31, 2026: Luke 20:1-26 Jesus Questioned, Vineyard Parable

Luke 20:1-8 Jesus' Authority Questioned (Mat 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33) The Authority of Jesus Challenged

Luk 20:1 Now it happened on one of those days, as He(**Jesus**) taught (**instructing**) the people in the temple (**temple courts**) and preached the gospel, that the chief priests and the scribe (**experts in the law**), together with the elders, confronted Him,

Do these things describes Jesus' cleansing the temple of evil doings, also healing and teaching in the temple?

Luk 19:45 Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it,

Luk 19:46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

Luk 19:47 And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him,

Luk 19:48 and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

Luk 20:2 and spoke to Him, saying (**demanding**), "Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things? Or who is he who gave You this authority?"

Luk 20:3 But He(**Jesus**) answered and said to them (**religious leaders**), "I also will ask you one thing (**question**), and answer Me:

Luk 20:4 "The baptism of John (**the Baptist**)--was it from heaven (**ordained by God**) or from men (**human origin**)?"

Jhn 1:26 John (the Baptist) answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know.

Luk 20:5 And they (**religious leaders**) reasoned (**discussed it**) among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him (**John the Baptist**)?'

Luk 20:6 "But if we say, 'From men (**human origin**),' all the people will stone us (**to death**), for they (**crowd of people**) are persuaded (**convinced**) that John (**the Baptist**) was a prophet."

Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by John the Baptist

Luk 7:24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"

Luk 7:25 "But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

Luk 7:26 "But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.

Luk 7:27 "This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

Luk 7:28 "For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Luk 7:29 been baptized with the baptism of John.

Luk 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

Luk 20:7 So they(**religious leaders**) answered (**finally replied**) that they did not know, where it was from? (**We do not know whether from heaven or human origin?**)

Luk 20:8 And Jesus said to them(**religious leaders**), "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

### Luke 20:9-19 Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers-Evil Farmers (Mat 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12)

Luk 20:9 Then He(**Jesus**) began to tell the people this parable: "A certain man planted a vineyard, leased it (**rented it**) to vinedressers (**tenant farmers**), and went into a far country for a long time (**or journey to another country for several years**).

This parable is rooted in the Old Testament. Jesus listeners would remember that the vineyard was used in the Old Testament as a picture of Israel (**Isaiah 5:1-7, v7- For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.**). In this parable, the tenants (**the vinedressers**) represented the religious leaders among the Jewish people.

This, along with Psalm 80, a psalm of Asaph and Jeremiah who likens the nation to a vineyard. They realized that Jesus was talking about the nation of Israel

Luk 20:10 "Now at vintage (**harvest**)-time he(**owner**) sent a servant (**his representative**) to the vinedressers(**tenant farmers**), that they might give him some (**his share**) of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vinedressers(**tenant farmers**) beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

### Paul shared about persecution

1Th 2:15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, (Jesus Christ willingly gave up His life for our salvation by allowing Himself to be tortured and killed).

Luk 20:11 "Again he(owner) sent another servant; and they beat him also, treated him shamefully (insulting & dishonoring him), and sent him away empty-handed.

Luk 20:12 "And again he(owner) sent a third (representative); and they wounded him also and cast him out (of the owners vineyard).

The owner sent three servants, probably representing the OT prophets, to check on the tenants.

### Stephens Message Israel Resists the Holy Spirit

Act 7:51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

Act 7:52 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,

Luk 20:13 "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably (or perhaps) they will respect him (my son) when they see him.'

### This reminds us of a voice coming from Heaven saying this is my beloved Son

Mat 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

Mat 3:14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

Mat 3:15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

Mat 3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Mat 3:17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Luk 20:14 "But when the vinedressers(tenant farmers) saw him (owners son), they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'This (man) is the heir. Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.'

God is speaking in these last days through His Son

Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Heb 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Luk 20:15 "So they cast him (**owners son**) out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore what will the owner (**literally, "lord" represents God**) of the vineyard do to them?

Luk 20:16 "He will come and destroy those vinedressers (**put those tenant farmers to death**) and give the vineyard to others." And when they heard it they said, "Certainly not! (**How terrible, may this never happen**)"

Rom 11:1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Rom 11:2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,

Rom 11:3 "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?

Rom 11:4 But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

Rom 11:5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Rom 11:11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

This parable was intended to show that God (the owner, v. 13) is taking away the kingdom from Israel

Luk 20:17 Then He(**Jesus**) looked (**directly**) at them and said, "What then is this that is written (**here is the meaning**): 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone'? (**Psalm 118:22**)

Psa 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

Luk 20:18 "Whoever falls on (**stumbles over**) that stone will be broken (**and shattered in pieces**); but on whomever it falls, it will grind (**crush**) him to powder (**dust**)."

This refers to everyone who rejects Jesus as the Messiah. When it falls on anyone refers to Christ coming back in judgment

Isa 8:13 The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow (regard as holy); Let Him be your fear, And let Him be your dread.

Isa 8:14 He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Isa 8:15 And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken."

1Pet 2:7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"

1Pet 2:8 and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Act 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:

Act 4:9 "If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,

Act 4:10 "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

Act 4:11 "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'

Act 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Luk 20:19 And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him (searched for a way to arrest Jesus), but they feared the people--for they knew (and understood) He(Jesus) had spoken this parable against them (the religious leaders were the wicked tenant farmers).

Jesus is often likened unto a rock in the Bible. He is the rock of provision that followed Israel in the desert (1Cor 10:4). He is the stone cut without hands that crushes the kingdoms of this world (Dan 2:45).

Luke 20:20-26 The Pharisees Ask? Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes to Caesar? (Mat 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17)

Luk 20:20 So they watched (for an opportunity to trap) Him(Jesus), and sent spies who pretended to be righteous (falsely represented themselves), that they might seize on (or distort) His words, in order to deliver Him to the power (control) and the authority of the governor (who was Pilate)

Pharisees plotted to trap Jesus in His Words

**Mat 22:15** Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk.

**Mat 22:16** And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men.

**Luk 20:21** Then they asked Him(**Jesus**), saying, "Teacher, we know that You say(**speak**) and teach rightly (**correctly**), and You do not show personal favoritism (**or partiality**), but teach the way of God in truth (**teach truthfully Gods Word**):

**Mar 12:14** When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?

**Luk 20:22** "Is it lawful (**according to Jewish law**) for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"(**Every Jewish person was required to pay the poll-tax, tribute money. It was considered a sign of subservience to Rome**).

**Some believe that paying any tax to pagan leaders, contradicted God's relationship over his people.**

**Luk 20:23** But He(**Jesus**) perceived their craftiness (**evil intent**), and said to them, "Why do you test (**tempt**) Me?"

**Mar 12:15** "Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it."

**Luk 20:24** "Show Me a denarius (**Roman coin**). Whose image and inscription does it have?" They answered and said, "Caesar's (**the Emperor**)."

**Luk 20:25** And He(**Jesus**) said to them, "Render therefore (**pay**) to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

**Jesus is saying people should give to God that which bears his image and likeness, namely themselves**

**Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

**Luk 20:26** But they could not catch Him (**or trap Him**) in His words, in the presence of the people. And they marveled (**astonished**) at His answer and kept silent.

Changed what Jesus said?

**Luk 23:1** Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him(**Jesus**) to Pilate.

Luk 23:2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Luk 23:3 Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "It is as you say."

Luk 23:4 So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

End

## Notes

A Parable is a short, earthly story used to illustrate a deep spiritual or moral lesson. The word comes from the Greek *parabolē*, which literally means "to throw alongside". Think of it as placing a common, everyday truth alongside a heavenly truth so the listener can understand the unknown by looking at the known. There is always a literal meaning (**the story itself**) and a spiritual meaning (**look for the central point, hidden spiritual lesson and truth, a comparison, then application**). A parable typically has one main interpretation, but it can have many different applications depending on a person's specific circumstances.

In the study of parables, the interpretive principle of **Expositional Constancy** suggests that God uses symbols with consistent meaning throughout Scripture providing a reliable pattern, consistency or correlation to guide understanding and interpretation.

**Mar 4:13** And He(Jesus) said to them, "**Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?** Jesus is saying if you don't understand the first parable and the meanings how are you going to understand the others. Remember Jesus took the disciples aside and explained to them the meaning privately.

## Here is a simple chart of Scriptural Symbols & Consistent Biblical Meanings

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Consistent Meaning</u>	<u>Scripture References</u>
Birds / Fowls	Workers of Evil ( <b>Snatch Seed</b> )	Mat 13:4, 19; Rev 18:2 ( <b>Unclean birds</b> ); Dan 4:20-22
Leaven Sin	False Doctrine, Corruption	Mat 16:11 ( <b>Pharisees doctrine</b> ); 1Cor 5:6 ( <b>Purge</b> ); Gal 5:9
Brass / Bronze	Judgment	Num 21:9 ( <b>Bronze serpent</b> ); Rev 1:15 ( <b>Feet brass</b> ); Deu 28:23
Silver	Redemption / Ransom	Exo 30:11 ( <b>Atonement</b> ); Zech 11:12; Mat 26:15 ( <b>30 pieces</b> )
Rock / Stone	Christ / Foundation	1Cor 10:4 ( <b>Rock was Christ</b> ); Psalm 118:22; Mat 21:42
Field	The World	Mat 13:38 ( <b>The field is the world</b> )
Seed	The Word of God	Luke 8:11 ( <b>Seed is the word</b> ); 1Pet 1:23 ( <b>Incorruptible Seed</b> )
Sea / Waters	Gentile Nations / Masses	Rev 17:15 ( <b>Peoples, nations &amp; tongues</b> ); Isa 57:20; Dan 7:2
Trees	Human Leaders / Nations	Dan 4:22 ( <b>Tree is you King Neb.</b> ); Judges 9:8-15; Mark 8:24
Grapes / Vine	Israel ( <b>Religious life</b> )	Isa 5:1-7; Psalm 80:8; John 15:1 ( <b>Vine, vinedresser, fruit</b> )
Fig Tree	Israel ( <b>National life</b> )	Luke 13:6-9; Mat 24:32; Jer 24:1-10 ( <b>Bad figs Jerusalem ...</b> )
Thorns	Cares of the World / Sin	Gen 3:18; Mat 13:22 ( <b>Choke &amp; become unfruitful</b> ); Heb 6:8
Lamp, Lampstand	Witness / Church	Rev 1:20; Psalm 119:105; Mat 5:14-16 ( <b>Let your Light shine</b> )
Gold	Deity / Divine Nature	Rev 21:18 ( <b>Street of gold</b> ); Exo 25 ( <b>Ark of Covenant</b> )
Oil	Holy Spirit	1Sam 16:13 ( <b>Anointing</b> ); Mat 25 ( <b>Oil in lamps</b> ), Acts 10:38
Water	Word, Washing	Eph 5:26 ( <b>Washing of water by the Word</b> ); John 15:3 ( <b>Clean</b> )
Fruit	Repentance / Character	Matt 3:8; Luke 13:9; Gal 5:22 ( <b>Fruit of the Spirit is love</b> )