# Gospel of Luke Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Luke Chapter 20

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Luke 20 falls right after an important event (the triumphal entry of Jesus to Jerusalem, 19:28-40) and in the final week of Jesus’ life before he was betrayed to his death (22:3-6). Luke 20 is not a simple chapter for a traditional club talk, but I think that is (once again) a fantastic challenge to help us (re)form a biblical model of the gospel (compared to over-simplified versions). Luke 20 is the tipping point for the established religious leaders; they simply cannot tolerate Jesus’ authority, so they are on the war-path to trap him and kill him. A key to understanding Luke 20 is found in the closing verses of Luke 19, where we learn that the key religious leaders were seeking to destroy Jesus (19:47).  The way I will be doing this club talk is to think of it as a sin talk and appropriation talk rolled into one.   * Sin: By nature, we tend to serve everyone except God. * Appropriation: Will you recognize Jesus as your ultimate authority? * Campaigners: If you recognize Jesus as your authority, what people or things try to steal your allegiance to Jesus?   Here is an outline for the core of my club talk   1. Haters: I want to introduce you to two groups of people who hated Jesus. These people rejected his authority [This part will be brief]    1. Religious leaders (Priests, Scribes, Elders, Sadducees): He threatened their power (20:1-8, 27-47)       1. They asked Jesus “who gave you this authority? (20:2) [to drive people out of the Temple” (see 19:45-48)       2. They “sought to lay hands on him” (20:19) and “pretended to be sincere” (20:20)    2. Governmental leaders (Caesar): He threatened Caesar’s power [see below] (20:19-26) 2. Story / Prediction: Here is a story… Jesus’ prediction parable, the wicked tenants (20:9-18)    1. God gave people all of creation to care for (20:9)    2. God sent messengers to check-in on them, but the people rejected God’s messengers (20:10-12)    3. God sent his “beloved son” to them, but they killed him (20:13-15)    4. If you reject the authority of the son/cornerstone, you will be rejected (20:16)       1. *[So give your allegiance to Jesus!]* |
| Possible main point(s):   * Who is your authority? Who or what has your full allegiance? Who do you serve?... Your pastor? Your family? Your government? Your boyfriend/girlfriend? Your teachers or coaches? Yourself? Give your allegiance to Jesus. * Jesus won’t settle for second place. * Putting your primary and exclusive trust or allegiance in any human will always fail you (and this is also called sin). |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus knew that he would be misunderstood and perceived as a threat to other authorities. * Jesus knew that he would be killed (20:15) * Jesus knows when people are being sincere or insincere (20:20) * Jesus knows when people are trying to be “crafty” (20:23) |
| What this has to do with our life:   * We, as humans, stand in a long line of people who have rejected God’s messages (messengers) as well as Jesus’ proper place in our world and our own lives. * We should beware of religious leaders (and political leaders) who like to flaunt their authority over us. |
| Relevant technical details:   * “Temple” (v.1) = The center of Jewish worship, believed to the dwelling place of God on earth. * “Chief priests” (v.1) = Leaders of the priests; priests performed ceremonial duties in the Temple and taught people in their local communities. * “Scribes” (v.1) = People who copied documents (by hand) and often became legal and religious experts because of it. * “Elders” (v.1) = In Luke 20 this would have meant the older men who were influential in Jerusalem. * “denarius” (v.24) = One day’s wage. More importantly, this coin (almost certainly) had an image of Tiberius Caesar with the inscription “Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus.” [Picture [HERE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribute_penny)] The irony, perhaps worse – the idolatry, of scribes and chief priests to trade (and have with them) in a coin that acknowledged the emperor as “divine” is a serious issue that Jesus is pointing out to them. Note that the coin calls Tiberius the “son of the divine” = “the son of God” which is the title used of Jesus in Luke (1:35, 4:3, 9, 41, 22:70). * “Sadducees” (v.27) = Jewish group who believed that there was no resurrection |
| Possible illustrations:   * Coins: The coin in Jesus’ day proclaimed the emperor as the “son of God” Hold up a coin and talk about how we are tempted to give our primary allegiance to people and things other than Jesus. * People/groups who challenging existing authority. Recent examples include: The student movement “March for our lives.” The demand for fair teacher pay (in AZ “RedforEd”.) Also the Black Lives Matter movement. These issues matter very much and challenge the existing authorities. Jesus challenges us to think about our eternal authority. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Luke 20 (ESV)

**The Authority of Jesus Challenged**

**20**One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up **2**and said to him, “Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority.” **3**He answered them, “I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, **4**was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?” **5**And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’ **6**But if we say, ‘From man,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.” **7**So they answered that they did not know where it came from. **8**And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

**The Parable of the Wicked Tenants**

**9**And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. **10**When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. **11**And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. **12**And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. **13**Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ **14**But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ **15**And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? **16**He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” **17**But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

“ ‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone’?

**18**Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

**Paying Taxes to Caesar**

**19**The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. **20**So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. **21**So they asked him, “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. **22**Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?” **23**But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, **24**“Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” **25**He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” **26**And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent.

**Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection**

**27**There came to him some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, **28**and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. **29**Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. **30**And the second **31**and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. **32**Afterward the woman also died. **33**In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.”

**34**And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, **35**but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, **36**for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. **37**But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. **38**Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.” **39**Then some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, you have spoken well.” **40**For they no longer dared to ask him any question.

**Whose Son Is the Christ?**

**41**But he said to them, “How can they say that the Christ is David’s son? **42**For David himself says in the Book of Psalms,

“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

**43** until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’

**44**David thus calls him Lord, so how is he his son?”

**Beware of the Scribes**

**45**And in the hearing of all the people he said to his disciples, **46**“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, **47**who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”