

## Who Died and Made You THE Boss?! U

### Luke 20:1-19

When I was growing up, this was commonly said. Whether we were playing baseball, football, basketball, cruising around on our bikes, if anyone became a little to bossy that would be our response.

When my older cousins would start trying to boss me around, I would say it. I also learned early on that that response would get you a smacking. Or be told I was going to be the one that died. AHH, good times!

This was the attitude of the Chief priests, scribes, and elders in Jerusalem regarding Jesus.

Jesus came into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, the people shouting out, "Hosanna, Blessed be the King that comes in the name of the Lord."

Then he arrives at the temple and exposes them as crooked thieves. Jesus cleans house, literally, out with the money exchanging tables, all the people partaking in the exchanges, out with the special sacrificial animals, out with the phony temple tax money and out with their hypocritical teachers.

### Read Luke 19:45-48; Mark 11:15-18; Matthew 21:12-15

Out with the corrupt and in with the true work of God! The blind and lame were brought in and healed. Prayer and praises being lifted to God. Jesus teaching "daily" in the temple. The common people hearing from God's son about God.

**Read Luke 20:1** "preaching the gospel." Can you imagine? What is the gospel? The good news! Jesus teaching in the temple about the good news. This made me think; many of us have had the opportunity to hear some of the best preachers and preaching in our lifetime. We all can think of that one message, one challenge, where we heard the gospel. We can remember everything about it, sights, sounds, smells, even who we were with.

But, can you imagine hearing Jesus preaching the gospel?! Wow!

### Read Luke 20:2-8

We see in verse two the heart attitude of the religious leaders. **"by what authority doest thou these things? Or who is he that gave thee this authority?"**


In Cecil's vernacular, "Who died and made you the boss?!"

Jesus being God and knowing every man's heart, intent, and ways, calls them on the carpet in **verse 3-4**

#### I. **Rejection of Jesus was not because of a lack of knowledge, but because of unwillingness to accept the truth. (verses 1-8)**

- Jesus exposed their heart. Rather than allow for conviction or correction, they lie and plead ignorance.
- If they agreed that John was from heaven, a prophet, it would legitimize Jesus. They would be the ones in the wrong.

- If they disagreed and said that John was a fraud, and fake, the people would revolt, because they were believers of John and they would be attacking a national hero. “all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet.” (v.6)
- These religious leaders wanted to embarrass Jesus, so they challenged His authority. They were in effect demanding, “Who do you think you are?” They are asking a question concerning his personal authority. He was acting like he owned the place (the temple) because he did.
- **John 3:16-21** expounds on the heart condition of man.
- How much scarier are our houses, neighborhoods, parks, woods when its dark out over when it’s light out?
- If you ever lived in the south, what happens when the lights come on and you have roaches?
- I believe that the rejection of Jesus has little to do with knowledge, but more to do with being unwilling to accept the truth.
- I can speak for myself before I trusted in Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I retreated to the dark. Whenever anything of God would come up, I would deflect, deny, distract, anything to retreat to the safety of my own understanding.
- When my understanding, belief, thoughts of God conflicted with the truth of the Bible, I didn’t want to accept it. I would argue, kick, spit, call names and run to get away from it.
- I had to get to the point of being tired of running, tired of pretending to have it all together. I had to come to a place to where I was forced to face the truth. My way of living my life was leading me to hell. There was another way, was I willing to trust it?

 ***Matthew Henry said, “Men often pretend to examine the evidences of revelation, and the truth of the gospel, when only seeking excuses for their own unbelief and disobedience. Christ answered these priests and scribes with a plain question about the baptism of John, which the common people could answer. They all knew it was from heaven, nothing in it had an earthly tendency. Those that bury the knowledge they have, are justly denied further knowledge. It was just with Christ to refuse to give account of his authority, to those who knew the baptism of John to be from heaven, yet would not believe in him, nor own their knowledge.”***

 **II. Their Rejection of Jesus would result in His Death. (vs. 9-16)**

- **Read Luke 20:9-16**
- What really grabs my attention in this parable is how patient (longsuffering) God is towards man. While in our sins God is patient and desires us to repent.
- This reminds me that I must be more patient with myself as I stumble in sin and with others also.

***Warren Weirsbe, Jesus illustrates for us here that sin is progressive, “the more we sin, the worse it becomes. The tenants started off beating up some of the servants and wounding others, but they ended up becoming murderers. The Jewish leaders permitted John the Baptist to be killed, they asked for Jesus to be crucified and then they themselves stoned Stephen.”***



### III. Their Rejection of Jesus had eternal consequences. (vs. 17-19)

- **Read Luke 20:17-19**
- These religious leaders knew the scriptures well enough to know that the parable was about them. (hint, their confession is found at the end of **verse 19**)
- In **verses 17-18**, God offers us a choice of “brokenness” or being crushed. Those who cast themselves on Jesus, submitting their wills and all they are to him, will be broken by him of arrogance, hard-heartedness, and self-centeredness. It is not a pleasant process but a very necessary one.
- But for those who do not submit to him, he will ultimately “fall on them, grind them to powder” “an experience infinitely worse which the Bible says will be “crushing.” The choice is yours, broken before him or crushed by him.
- Verse nineteen reveals that the religious leaders knew he had spoken this parable against them, but they were too proud to repent and too hardened to turn from their sins.

***Matthew Henry says, “A guilty conscience needs no accuser; but they, instead of yielding to the convictions of conscience, fell into a rage at him who awakes that sleeping lion in their bosom.”***



### Conclusion

- Jesus’ “preached that gospel” demonstrates the importance of the message. It also, proves even more that we ALL need to be doing it.
- God is patient with man and his sinfulness, but only for a time, and only he knows when that time is up.
- Jesus’ desire for the church, his bride to be pure.

It is not that the religious leaders did not know who Jesus was, but that they would not accept his authority.

We are in the sinful state that we are in today, not because we do not know that God exists, but because we have refused to acknowledge his authority. We would rather run our own lives, and live as we please. We would rather be like God than to be answerable to Him. Sin rejects God’s authority and seeks to live autonomously.

Even after we become Christian, we continue to struggle with God’s demands on our lives. We struggle with the reality of what it means to allow Christ to truly be “the Lord of our lives.”

Jesus claims authority in every area of our lives? We suffer tragic physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences because we do not want Jesus to be the Lord of our whole lives, just sections of it.