

## Awkward Times

**Luke 20:41-47-Luke 21:1-4**

**Matthew 22:34-46; Matthew 23** is an exposition from Jesus

**Mark 12:35-44**

Aren't we living in awkward times? Whoever would have believed 2020 would go the way it has? (I know there is always a "Karen" that says they did)

If we ponder for a moment, I think we could think of lots of awkward moments.

How about in church?

How about in life?

We are living in some awkward times, and in these times, everyone has a belief or opinion.

Opinions are like armpits, everyone has them, and some even like the smell of theirs.

Where the rubber meets the road is how do we respond during these awkward times? If we were to poll the room on how we should respond we would have a plethora of different opinions. And like the smell of armpits, many really like their opinions.

How SHOULD we respond in Awkward times? In times of chaos? In times of loss? Hopelessness? Injustice?

**Read Luke 20:41-44**

**Read Matthew 22:41- 46**

**Read Matthew 22:34-40 (another question asked that Luke's account doesn't share)**

**1. Who do you say Jesus Christ is?**

- A prophet? Teacher? Poet? Lunatic? Master? Lord? Savior? Friend? God?
- Then Jesus flips the script and asks the Pharisee's a question. "**What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?**" (**Matthew 22:42**)
- They responded that he was the "son of David." They admitted that David was his ancestor. There were 26 generations between David and Jesus. David was Jesus 27<sup>th</sup> great grandfather.
- So, Jesus quotes **Psalm 110:1**, "**The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.**"
- Jesus was pointing out that the title, "**son of David**" did not begin to sum up all that is true about the Messiah (Christ) who is also "**son of God**" (**Luke 22:70**). Jesus is declaring his deity. He is standing in the temple saying I am the Messiah, son of God, who has come to set men free from their sins.
- With that statement Jesus gave them the match they needed to start the fire, to put in motion why he came to earth. It also quieted them! (**Matthew 22:46**)
- Luke gives us the cliff note version, (Luke 20:45-47) while Matthew 23 gives us more depth of Jesus' rebuke. (More on that in a minute)

- Back to the point. How should we respond in Awkward times or any of the other times I listed? First, who do you say (believe) Jesus is? Whose son, is he?
- Jesus asked this same question of Peter and the disciples. Remember?
- **Read Matthew 16:13-17**
- What you believe about Jesus is directly connected to how you are/should respond in all situations.
- If you believe anything about Jesus but that he is your Lord and Savior, you will respond to situations based on lots of different things, your life experiences, where you grew up, how you felt about responses you had observed, felt when observed situations, your ethnicity, things you have overcame, things have impacted you.
- If you are a follower of Jesus Christ of God's Word, we are taught and shown how we are to respond to awkward times, different situations.

## 2. Do you live (life in action) what you say you believe?

- **Turn to and read Luke 20:45-47**
- The bible has a verse for "living life in action," **James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."**
- Jesus had a few words for those that said one thing and did another, "**hypocrites, blind guides.**" He gives a scathing rebuke for the "religious leaders" of that day. (**Matt. 23**)
- Cecil, are you saying that if I am a hearer only that I am not a Christian, born-again, follower, believer, of Jesus Christ?
- I am not qualified to make that call. The one to ask is God, the Holy Spirit. When you ask him, make sure it's in comparison to what the Word of God says the characteristics of his follower is.
- I can say this, we, me, many of us, if not all of us born-again believers are guilty of being hearers and not doers at different points of our life. I think it's more of a problem than we admit.
- Notice what the second part of **James 1:22** says. "**deceiving your own selves**" guess who realizes he does that every day? Me!
- I found out I am good at it. I can twist and contort the scriptures to make myself feel "**deceiving your own selves**" justified.
- Do you want to know in what ways, areas, sins, have I been a hearer and not a doer?
- You can find me all through the scriptures. I am a master at complaining. When I perceive something is unfair or I have gotten the short end of the stick, I can complain, whine, make everyone's life miserable around me.
- What about you? Do you complain? If someone gets something you don't get or you have felt slighted, do you have to make sure it's made right, to your liking? Don't you dare go all holier than thou on me either, I am talking about downright petty things.
- You want to know more? My complaining loves the company of taring people down. I can "deceive your own selves" in thinking I am problem solving. Oh, that so and so, if they would only live more like Jesus, they would be better off. Before long I am fixing everyone's problems. If they would do this, then this would happen, and their lives would be so much better. Man, I start to feel better, or so I think, "deceiving your own self."

- What about you? Do you like to talk about how to fix everything? If your boss did things this way. If the President, Governor, Senate, Congress, Mayor would do it like this. If the leaders in the church would just listen to God, rather than man...don't you mean, "me"?
- I read through **Matthew 23 (turn there)** a few times this past week and I found myself all through Jesus rebuke of the religious leaders. As I was reading my heart sank when I read a couple of verses that Jesus desires me to find me... in **Matthew 23:11-12**.
- What can I do when I am falling into "deceiving your own self?" If I want to be great in God's plan, I need to be your, everyone's servant.
- How should I respond when things are awkward, on fire, crazy, end time fulfillment, insert your own thing? It must start as a representative, servant of Jesus Christ.
- I believe the number 1 characteristic of a servant of Jesus is...humility. (**Matthew 23:12**)
- How about you? Do you respond as a humble servant of Jesus Christ? Or maybe a pompous, self-righteous condemning know it all? Or maybe you don't even consider what the scripture says how the believer is supposed to respond? You just wing it! (just flesh it!)

### 3. Others follow our example.

- **Read Luke 21:1-4**
- What do we see in these 4 verses?
- Rich men putting in offerings out of their abundance (gold and silver) and a poor widow putting in "two mites" 2 copper coins.
- What can we take away? Jesus was impressed by her sacrificial gift more than their gifts out of their abundance.
- We could apply this to our giving right? Are we giving sacrificially? Are we just tipping God? She gave all she had; the thought is that she had nothing else. She would go home and unless someone intervene, she would die. Have you ever given like that? I haven't. I have given when I didn't necessarily have it, but because of poor financial decisions. But never my last dollar.
- There is another possible application we need to see here. Could this poor widow been burdened to give her last two mites?
- When you read her story in the context of all the scripture says, I think there is a good case for it.
- **Look at verse 5 and 6.** The temple was immaculate, there was a lot of time and money put into this temple.
- The real indictment is that the offerings of the people were chiefly being used to build magnificent buildings for the glory of men and human architects. But only Jesus seemed to note or care of the widow's condition.
- Why didn't one of those rich people reach out and help this poor widow who was going home to die. The religious system had exacted the last two mites she had. Instead of being a source of relief and joy to her, the religious system was going to put the final nails in her coffin.
- The disciples went away with Jesus for the last time from the Temple commenting on how magnificence. How shocked they must have been to hear that not one stone would be left upon another. No sooner was the Temple finished that the Romans took the city and made the surviving Jews take the Temple down stone by stone until there was not one left upon another.

- The glory of men will not stand. God humbles human pride.
- If you are a follower of Jesus the Christ, you are an example, good and bad. Look again at **Luke 20:47, “Which devour widow’s houses.”**
- God had always taken care of Israel; they were blessed by him. Yet, this is where they are. Making a mockery out of God. There is no reason the widow should have been left to suffer. God had placed them there to watch out for her.
- Brethren, are we repeating the same mistakes as Israel? God has blessed us. Are we burdening people?
- How we respond, how we live, will leave a lasting example.

## **Conclusion**

How will you respond?

I can speak for myself and from what I see in the church in America today. We suffer from the Americanized gospel. I try to mesh my rights protected under the constitution with the philosophy of the teachings of Jesus Christ. And I believe these rights might have had a biblical foundation, they do not carry the same authority of THE BIBLE.

Where I might have the right as an American to the freedom of speech, as a follower of God, I am cautioned on this. I don’t have the green light to destroy or tear down others with my words.

Where I have the right in America to do a lot of things, as a follower of God, I am cautioned about using my liberty as a stumbling block for others.

As an American, submission is not a word I like to hear, let alone be a doer of. As a follower of God, God’s desire is I am an example of submission. To him first, and then to you.

*“Resolving social injustice and racial divide is an inside job that must start in the heart of each of us. Who is responsible to resolve such social issues? “We” and “us.” What is the solution? Love.” Chad Husted*

*The answers are found in “humanities instruction book.” Chad Husted*

## **Romans 12:10, 14-21**

The example we show others will leave a mark, what will you choose to be?

Example of complaining, criticizing, judging, chiding, bitterness, or maybe unforgiveness. These are heavy burdens that are grievous to bear. Anger, hatred, revenge, shouting louder than the other person?

Or an Example of:

## **Confession**

**1 John 1:8-9, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**James 5:16, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."**

**Humility**

**Colossians 3:12, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;"**

**Ephesians 4:2-3, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."**

**James 4:6, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."**

**James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."**

**Holy**

**1 Peter 1:14-16, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."**

**Colossians 3:1, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."**

**Romans 12:1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**

**Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**

**Who do you say Jesus is?**

**Are you living it?**

**Others will follow, what kind of example are you?**