



May 10, 2020

F260 Bible Reading Plan

Week 18 (5/4/20)

Psalm 51
2 Samuel 24, Psalm 24
Psalms 1, 19
Psalms 103, 119:1-48
Psalms 119:49-128

Week 19 (5/11/20)

Psalms 119:129-176, 139
Psalms 148-150
1 Kings 2
1 Kings 3, 6
1 Kings 8, 9:1-9

SCRIPTURE

Luke 20:1-8

20 One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. ²“Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”

³ He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me: ⁴ John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

⁵ They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ ⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.”

⁷ So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.”

⁸ Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

COMMENTARY

Luke 20:1-8

20:1-2. Luke did not specify which day of the Passion Week is in view here, but the parallel account in Mark 11:19-20,27-33 indicates it was Tuesday. Chief priests... scribes, and elders were part of the Jewish ruling council, the Sanhedrin. The Jewish religious leaders questioned Jesus' authority for throwing the merchants out of the temple complex (19:45) because such an act was a direct attack on the heart of Jewish religion. To their mind, none but a blasphemer would dare do such a thing. Thus, they sought to discredit Jesus in the eyes of the people gathered for Passover.

20:3-8. As He often did, Jesus turned the attention back on His questioners by asking them about the authority of John the Baptist's baptism. Finding themselves in a "no-win" situation, the religious leaders stated that they did not know the basis of John's authority. Having caught His opponents in a trap, Jesus also refused to answer their question. The importance of John the Baptist as a prophet and forerunner of the Messiah is evident in the opening chapters of Luke. Luke did not minimize the importance of this great prophet. Yet if John was a prophet with divine authority, how much more authority must Jesus have had (Luke 20:2) in that He was greater than John (3:16). As a result, His teachings (20:1) are to be obeyed and kept no matter how difficult they may seem.

MAIN POINT

Faith requires that we acknowledge and submit to Jesus' authority in our lives.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Generally speaking, how did you respond to authority when you were a teenager (i.e. by rebelling, with fear, questioning/challenging, etc.)?

In which of the following areas is it most challenging for you to respect authority now: your workplace, government, family relationships, or church? Why?

What does our response to authority figures reveal about us?

The more people heard Jesus' teaching, the more they noticed the source He claimed as His authority. Jesus spoke and acted with the authority of God, something that would have been blasphemous unless He really was God. In today's lesson, we read of Jesus confronting the questions raised about His authority.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

- Ask a volunteer to read Luke 20:1-8.

What “things” had Jesus been doing (see 19:45-48)? What about these things would worry the religious leaders?

Why do you think the religious leaders approached Jesus to ask this question as a group? Why do you think they chose to do it while Jesus was teaching in the temple, proclaiming the good news?

The religious leaders wanted to know the source of Jesus' authority, not only to cleanse the temple, but also to teach and perform miracles. These Jewish leaders possessed authority based on lineage, training, age, and experience; and they knew Jesus possessed no official credentials. Therefore, they wanted to know the authority that formed the basis for what He was doing.

Why do you think Jesus didn't just answer them plainly? Why do you think He brought up John the Baptist?

See Luke 3:1-9. What was John the Baptist's message? How was John's message related to Jesus' ministry and authority?

From Jesus' probing question (vv. 5-6), what interests were the religious leaders trying to protect? What did this reveal about them?

Jesus responded to the leaders question with one of His own: Where did John's authority to baptize come from, heaven or men? This question placed the Jewish leaders in a quandary, for either answer created a problem for them. As a result, the group decided to plead ignorance to preserve their reputations before the people (v. 7). Since these Jewish religious leaders failed to answer Jesus' question, He refused to answer their question. However, the implications of His question were clear enough: Jesus and John both received their authority from God.

What people, things, or events led you to recognize Jesus' authority?

Why is it crucial that you acknowledge and submit to God's authority for right relationship with Him?

What authority does He have in your life now? How can you tell?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Respond to the following statement: It is impossible for a person who does not regularly read God's Word and/or pray to properly submit to God's authority.

In what areas do you struggle to submit to God's authority in your life?

How might you embrace more of an attitude of submission to God this week?

PRAYER

Thank God for His perfect authority and ask for Him to help you submit to His perfect authority by seeking and obeying Him in all that you do.