

Doubtless Living!

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THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

That you may have certainty!

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1




Closing Argument

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2

2



RESISTANCE FROM LEADERS

created by the Bible Project

JESUS' CLOSING ARGUMENT

REBUTTAL TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Luke 20:41-21:4

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3

OPEN THEOLOGICAL WARFARE

Five Contentious Controversies

1. The Source of Jesus' Authority (20:1-8)
2. Jesus' confrontational parable of the vineyard (20:9-19)
3. The dispute over Caesar's tax (20:20-26)
4. The Sadducees' trick question about resurrection (20:27-40)
5. Jesus' Closing Argument (20:41-21:4)

Rapidly Escalating Tension

- Trying to catch Jesus in error, the leaders test Him in every sphere.
- Jesus embarrasses and silences them each time.
- All these events happen on the same day!

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4

Closing Argument

➤ **Three closely related pericopes that represent Jesus' closing argument or rebuttal to the religious elite:**

1. Messiah's Identity Clarified (20:41-44)
2. Pride & Arrogance Condemned (20:45-47)
3. Humility & Piety Commended (21:1-4)

The way to God is not the leaders' way. God's way must be found on another road, through other examples.

Messiah's Identity Clarified

Luke 20:41-44

⁴¹ Then he said to them, "How can they say that the Messiah is the son of David? ⁴² For David himself says in the Book of Psalms:

The Lord declared to my Lord,

'Sit at my right hand

⁴³ until I make your enemies your footstool.'

⁴⁴ David calls him 'Lord.' How, then, can the Messiah be his son?"

Pride & Arrogance Condemned

Luke 20:45-47

⁴⁵ While all the people were listening, he said to his disciples,

⁴⁶ "Beware of the scribes, who want to go around in long robes and who love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the places of honor at banquets.

⁴⁷ They devour widows' houses and say long prayers just for show. These will receive harsher judgment."

Humility & Piety Commended

Luke 21:1-4

¹ He looked up and saw the rich dropping their offerings into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow dropping in two tiny coins. ³ "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴ For all these people have put in gifts out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

*⁴¹Then he said to them,
"How can they say that
the Messiah is the
son of David?"*

*⁴²For David himself says
in the Book of Psalms:
The Lord declared to my
Lord, 'Sit at my right
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*⁴⁴David calls him 'Lord.'
How, then, can the
Messiah be his son?"*

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JESUS ON OFFENSE

- The tables turn and now Jesus goes on offense and begins to question the religious leaders.
 - ❖ His intent was to show His audience that neither they nor their teachers understood their own Scriptures.
 - ❖ They rightly thought that Messiah would be the physical descendant of David,
 - ❖ But they wrongly thought that he would be just a man, a political savior, who would bring in an age of peace and prosperity.

9

9

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JESUS ON OFFENSE

- Jesus wanted them to see that the Messiah would not only be David's son, but also David's Lord, God in human flesh.
 - ❖ Jesus tries to get them to understand that the Messiah would be fully God and fully man, all at the same time.

They needed a correct view of the Messiah so they would not be deceived by the false religion of the leaders.

10

10

PRIDE & ARROGANCE CONDEMNED

- With the theological controversies behind him, Jesus changes topics.
 - ❖ The final confrontation with the leadership now causes Him to warn His disciples about them, within earshot of the Sadducees, Pharisees and scribes.
- Jesus is not shy about criticizing the leaders.
- It must have stung like salt in a wound, especially the declaration about them receiving harsher judgment.

Imagine their shock – no doubt this only hardened their resolve to kill Him.

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11

11

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HUMILITY & PIETY COMMENDED

- There were 13 trumpet-shaped receptacles in the temple forecourt that served to collect freewill offerings.
- Jesus’ had a clear view of them where He had been teaching and debating.
- The widow’s offering was only two Lepta, the smallest currency available whose value was 1/8th of a penny.
- Jesus calls attention to her offering to show the disciples that it is not the number of coins given, but the nature of the heart that gives them.
- The leaders had become greedy and wanted even more, but the widow gave all she had in stark contrast.

12

12



DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

- Jesus condemned the pride and arrogance of the religious leaders but commended the humility and piety of the widow, once again humiliating the leaders.
- The widow exemplified total devotion to God by giving up all that she had with complete faith that God would honor her sacrifice.
- Jesus was about to do the same thing in just a few short days.
- Despite all they had seen and heard from Him, the religious leaders refused to see Jesus as their Lord and Messiah.
- How do we see Jesus? Is He your Lord and Messiah?
- If so, may we follow the examples set by Jesus and the widow this week, by offering all that we are and have to Him to use for His glory.