

THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE ON THE STATUS QUO

We will begin with the story found in (Lk.20:1-8) which is the background to the parable in (Lk.20:9-18).

This lesson will study five aspects of One having the Authority to Take on the Status Quo.

- 1. The time table to this story parable is the last week in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. It takes place in the temple in preparation for the Passover (Lk.20-23).**

We saw earlier in (Lk.19:1, 11, and 28) that Jesus was headed for Jerusalem and His crucifixion.

(Lk.20:1) “On one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief **priests and the scribes with the elders confronted** (epistemi/ a.a.ind.3pl) [hostile attitudes] **Him.**”

During the day, He taught in the temple and at night He retreated to Mount Olivet (Lk.21:37-38).

The Sanhedrin constantly confronted Him during the teaching and preaching.

(Lk.20:2) “**Tell us** (lego/ a.a.impv.2ps) [demanded] **by what authority** (exousia) **You are doing these things, or who is the one who gave You this authority?”**

- 2. The hostility of the Sanhedrin against Jesus Christ has heated up, and pushed the fulfillment of the mission of the divine purpose of Jesus Coming into the world forward. (Rom.5:8; John 3:16).**

(Lk.19:10) “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

(1 Tim.1:15) “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.”

Now Jesus Is in Jerusalem to fulfill His prophetic mission.

(Lk.9:22) “The Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.” (Lk.18:31-34) [read]

These three were seldom united in politics, theology, or social issues. But they are united against Jesus Christ in Angelic Conflict (AC).

- 3. There are 29 verbal forms in our lesson text.**

Eleven (11) of them are connected to the Greek word (lego) [to say]

- 3 times in verse 2
- 2 times in verse 3
- 3 times in verse 5
- 1 time in verse 6
- 2 times in verse 8

Two times the aorist imperative is used [a command] (Lk.20:2, 3).

One time by Sanhedrin (Lk.20:2)

The other by Jesus (Lk.20:3)

The word Lego shows the confrontation and how the conversation between the Sanhedrin and Jesus heated-up.

The word also draws attention to the intent and hostility behind the confrontation (Lk.20:2) and then finally to their silence (Lk.20:7).

4. They came prepared to shoot Him down with prepared questions and rebuttals.

Jesus used the debater technique of counter questioning.

(Lk.20:3-4) “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘I will also ask you a question, and you tell me; was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?’”

They were forced out of offense into defense. They were so arrogant about their offense; that were not prepared to play defense. Now they are flying by the set of their pants. They must improvise in the heat of the battle.

Jesus’ counter questioning has revealed their malicious intent. It neutralized their verbal attack because it forced them into the examination of the word of God. Certainly, learned theologians like these men could answer this basis theological question.

5. You see they had investigated John Baptist’s ministry and concluded publicly that John was a prophet sent from God (John 1:19-29)

The Sanhedrin’s are stuck with two unacceptable alternatives based on their investigation of John (Lk.20:5-6).

They have been caught in their own deception and lies. Their malice towards Jesus has clouded their thinking and shut down the truth spoken by the word of God regarding John and Jesus.

(John 8:31-32) “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Hypocrite: Underneath their overt pleasantries hid vicious mental attitude sins fueled by their Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking! [Total phony-boloney!].

(Lk.6:42) “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? **You hypocrite**, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.”

(Matt.15:7-9) “**You hypocrites**, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you; ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching the precepts of men.’”

They may have thought that their silence was safe. But in fact, they ended up eating crow.