

Brilliant

7-21-19

Luke 20:20 (ESV)

They watched Jesus and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

Brilliant is a totally inappropriate title. However, how Jesus deals with people totally opposed to HIM is absolutely “Brilliant” even if HE is God. We also can learn some points from Jesus on how to deal with people who are totally opposed to us.

Jesus’ God given Authority Challenged!

Luke 20:1–8 (ESV)

20 One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up ² and said to him, “Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority.” ³ He answered them, “**I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, ⁴ was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?”**

⁵ **(Important to recognize their dishonesty!)** They discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’ ⁶ But if we say, ‘From man,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.” ⁷ So they answered that they did not know where it came from. ⁸ **(After they reveal their dishonesty)** Jesus said to them, “**Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.**”

Jesus knows the religious leaders reject HIS ministry and claims. Therefore Jesus gives an excellent response to their question, **“I also will ask you a question.”** Jesus’ question **“exposed”** their hypocrisy and insincerity. Once their insincerity was exposed, Jesus was under no obligation to answer their question.

Brilliance #1 Ask a question! We don’t need to answer the questions of people who are not sincere or too ignorant to understand the answer.

Jesus has just told a parable condemning the chief priests. Therefore, they set a trap for HIM!

Luke 20:19–25 (ESV)

¹⁹ The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰ **(Again Important to recognize their dishonesty!)** They watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. ²¹ So they asked him, “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. ²² Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?” ²³ **But he perceived their craftiness,** and said to them, ²⁴ **“Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?”** They said, “Caesar’s.” ²⁵ He said to them, **“Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”**

They pretended to be sincere in order to catch him in something HE said. This is the picture of deception.

#1 They called HIM teacher: Honored HIS Position

#2 They said HE spoke and taught rightly: Praise

#3 They said HE didn't show partiality: Integrity

#4 They said HE truly taught the Word of God: Highest godly character and honor!

#5 Now they spring the trap! Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

Context: The Romans conquered Israel and demanded the payment of taxes or imprisonment! However, the Jews believed it was unlawful to pay taxes to the Romans. In fact later, the Jews rebelled against the Romans. **Therefore**, if Jesus said it was unlawful to pay taxes to the Romans, HE would be subject to imprisonment for disobeying Roman law. **However**, if Jesus said it was lawful to pay taxes to the Romans, HE would be discredited among the Jewish people!

With clear and uncluttered wisdom Jesus said, "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Brilliance #2 First, beware when your enemies praise you. But enemies or not, Jesus didn't need or desire their praise therefore what they said did not cloud HIS vision and HE could easily see their hypocrisy. Matt.5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure (uncluttered) in heart, for they shall see God."

Sadducees who don't believe in the resurrection, ask about the Resurrection! Luke 20:27-40!

Matthew 22:23-32 (ESV)

²³ The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, ²⁴ saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.' ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ So too the second and third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ After them all, the woman died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her."

²⁹ But Jesus answered them, "**You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.** ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."

Jesus' answer is very appropriate, **“You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”** Concerning the resurrection of the dead, Jesus says, “Have you not “read” what was said to you by God with Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3:6, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” **Jesus is saying, “Yes there is a resurrection, because these guys are still alive!”**

Brilliance #3 Clear understanding of the Scripture and the power of God always leads to the answer of any question.

Now Jesus addresses the questioners and points out their real problem. They do not understand the identity of the Messiah and thus Jesus Christ.

Luke 20:41–44 (ESV)

⁴¹ But he said to them, **“How can they say that the Christ is David’s son? ⁴² For David himself says in the Book of Psalms (110:1),**

**“ “The Lord (God the Father) said to my Lord (Jesus),
“Sit at my right hand,**

⁴³ **until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’**

⁴⁴ **David thus calls him (Jesus) Lord, so how is he his son?”**

Biblical Fact: The human lineage of Christ is through King David. Two weeks ago we saw the blind beggar call out to Jesus, “Son of David have mercy on me.”

Also a Biblical Fact: In the prophetic vision of Psalm 110:1, David calls his son (Jesus), “Lord.”

Biblical Question: How can Jesus the Messiah be both son of David and Lord to David?

They do not have a clue!

Matthew 22:46 (ESV)

And no one was able to answer him a word!

The issue is, “They do not know the Scriptures or the Power of God.”

Answer: Jesus came through the Virgin Mary and the human lineage of David, but the Almighty God is HIS Father. Therefore Jesus is the son of David, but David calls HIM LORD!

Brilliance #4 First of all, know who Jesus is! Now as then, people do not understand who Jesus is. This is what the world needs to understand before it can truly comprehend anything. Keep it simple!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.