

## Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2

### Notes on Lesson Five: Opposition

# Lesson Five: Opposition

Luke 20:9-26

## Central Message

Jesus faced opposition openly. He was not afraid; in fact, he was in control. He used wise and careful words. Jesus told his followers that they would also face opposition. He told them not to be afraid, and he promised to give them the words and wisdom they needed.

## Life Application

The disciples believed this promise. At one point they told the same Jewish leaders, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:13,14,16-20 NIV

If you are a Christian, this promise is for you. God has given you his Spirit. God lives inside of every Christian. He will never leave you; you do not need to be afraid. God will give you the words, the courage, and the wisdom to face opposition.

## Community-Building Activity and Introduction<sup>1</sup> *Temples and Churches*

**Preparation:** Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

**Instructions:** At the beginning of the lesson, Jesus is in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. There was only one temple,<sup>2</sup> and it was the center of Jewish worship.<sup>3</sup>

Christians worship in a church. We usually think of this as a building. However for Christians, the building is not as important as the people who are worshipping. In fact, the Bible teaches that the church IS the people who follow Christ. It says

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<sup>1</sup> The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

<sup>2</sup> Actually, the first one was destroyed, so this is the second Jewish temple. However, it was the only one at that time. The Jews could worship in local synagogues and homes, but they had to go to the temple for sacrifices. You will read more about this in the lesson.

<sup>3</sup> Worship is the great respect we have for God and only God, and the praise, thanksgiving, obedience, and honor we show him.

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Christians are the body of Christ. We are his hands and feet on this earth, and he is the Head.

What do you know about the church? What do Christians do during their Sunday morning meeting, called a worship service? If you are a Christian, tell what is important to you about the church.

**Teaching Notes:** If you use the instruction strips, read the rest of the introduction to them at some point. As with the previous lesson about Holy Week, all you can do is introduce the ideas of worship and the church. If they would like to learn more, you could show photos of your church, give a tour of the building, or invite them to a Sunday service.

You could read together the background paper on the Passover before you read the introduction in the workbook. However, it would be good to consider how much time you have before you decide. The leader's guide states that the lessons take one and one-half to two hours to teach. This lesson can be taught in one and one-half hours, but only with careful planning.

### Lesson Notes

#### Luke 20: 9-26

##### Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook. Note that from this lesson to the end of the workbook, there will only be one section of text. These are long narratives, and are often divided into sections, but they are studied as one.

1. Ask them what it means to be an owner, a tenant, and a slave.
2. Send them into the text, even though they have not yet read it. They will have to scan the full sentence in Luke 20:20 and also the previous paragraph. The answer: The teachers of the Law and the chief priests bribed some men to pretend they were sincere.
3. Note that they are reading this with a partner, not the whole group.
4. The instructions are to work on one section of the text. Here is one suggestion for how you can do this: If you had them read in pairs, ask one partner to do the work for section A and one for section B. All the "A" people can work together and all the "B" people can work together. Note: This should be a quick exercise, even if they are working in groups.

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Section A: Who are the people in this section, not including the parable? They will find several references to the people who are listening and to the religious leaders. Do the religious leaders understand the parable? Luke tells us in 20:19 that they knew the parable was against them.

Section B: Who are the people in this section? They will find references to men, spies, the Roman Governor, the Roman Emperor, and pronouns that refer to the religious leaders. The men ask whether they should pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, and Jesus tells them to pay to the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor and to God what belongs to God.

5. While the "A" groups and "B" groups are together, they can work on a few observation questions. Then pair an "A" and a "B," so they can ask each other these questions.
6. The owner is God, the tenants are the Jewish people, especially the leaders, the servants represent the Law and the prophets, and the son is Jesus. Those who do not know the Bible may not be able to identify the servants, but they may have an idea.
7. What was the message? Ask them to think about the listeners. According to the parable, what will happen if the listeners and/or their leaders reject and kill Jesus? The owner himself will kill the tenants and turn the vineyard over to other tenants. These are strong words of judgment, but in one sense, this will happen. Think back to the previous lesson about the fall of Jerusalem.
8. The plan was to trap Jesus with questions. The leaders were not successful, so they bribed some men to pretend they were asking sincere questions.
9. If Jesus answers "no," the leaders can tell the Romans that Jesus is teaching people to disobey Roman law. He will be arrested right away. However, if he answers "yes," the leaders can say that he is going against scripture by worshiping a different god. Revolutionaries in 6 AD protested the use of the Roman coins, but the Romans responded with terrible violence. (See the reference to *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* for more information. It is on page 45 in the workbook.)
10. The text tells us in Luke 20:26, "There before the people they could not catch him in a thing, so they kept quiet, amazed at his answer."
11. Jesus tells them that he is the Son of God, not just another prophet.

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12. His time has come. Jesus knows that when the Jewish leaders know what he is claiming, he will be killed, but the time has come for that. (Jesus' claims will be discussed in Lesson Eight: The Trials.)

LINK If you are short on time, skip this section. Read the first two sentences, and ask them to read the rest at home. However, if you have time to read it, it will help them to think about how they would react to opposition.

LIVE Discuss one of the questions or ask them to pick one to answer.

2. In other words, what should we give to God?

**Be sure to read the "Consider This" section.**

Jesus faced opposition openly. He was not afraid; in fact, he was in control. He used wise and careful words. Jesus told his followers that they would also face opposition. He told them not to be afraid, and he promised to give them the words and wisdom they needed. The disciples believed this promise. If you are a Christian, this promise is also for you.<sup>4</sup>

End with The Final Word.

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<sup>4</sup> See Luke 21:12-15.

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# Opposition

**In the last lesson,** Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the City of Peace. He came on a mission of peace and salvation, but he knew that the “city” was going to reject<sup>1</sup> him.

**In this lesson,** we will see some of that opposition. The “opposition” is anyone who is against you. They will argue with you, hurt you, or try to stop you because of what you believe or are trying to do.

What will Jesus do? His actions and words might surprise you, but you can learn how to face opposition and not be afraid.

## Community Time



### Temples and Churches

At the beginning of the lesson, Jesus is in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. There was only one temple,<sup>2</sup> and it was the center of Jewish worship.<sup>3</sup>

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What do you know about the church? What do Christians do during their Sunday morning meeting, called a worship service? If you are a Christian, tell what is important to you about the church.

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<sup>1</sup> To reject is to not accept.

<sup>2</sup> Actually, the first one was destroyed, so this is the second Jewish temple. However, it was the only one at that time. The Jews could worship in local synagogues and homes, but they had to go to the temple for sacrifices. You will read more about this in the lesson.

<sup>3</sup> Worship is the great respect we have for God and only God, and the praise, thanksgiving, obedience, and honor we show him.

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