



STUDY 4 - TUESDAY

Luke 20:1-40 and Mark 11:28-34

Read Luke 20:1-40

Watch video

1. From the introduction: Chris said the temple authorities were threatened by Jesus' actions in clearing the temple. What was the nature of the threat/s they felt?
2. Luke 20:2 – the question of Jesus' authority. Why did Jesus answer with a question? Why was Jesus' question so brilliant?
3. Luke 20:22 – the question of taxes to the Emperor. What is brilliant about Jesus' answer to this question?

Mark and Luke include some parables here: the wicked tenants of a vineyard; in Matthew – a parable about two sons and then a wedding feast. Jesus is teaching against the officials and shows them up as shallow. Yet they know he was teaching against them (Luke 20:19). The crowd, however, loved it.

4. Luke 20:33 – the question about the resurrection from those who don't believe in it. What do we learn from Jesus' answer?
5. Mark 12:28-34 – the question of the greatest commandment. This may be the only sincere question put to Jesus that day. What was the difference between the one who asked the question here and the those who asked the earlier questions?
6. Why does Jesus' identify these two as the greatest commandments? What is the challenge for us?
7. Why might loving others involve warning them of dangers? What sort of warnings did Chris commend to us?
8. Why did Chris say that these greatest commandments are not in fact, the Christian message? See 1 John 4:9-11.
9. The world measures us by our achievements. It is easy to forget that God's love is unconditional and is expressed in the perfect work of Jesus. Why did Chris conclude from this point, that church should *never* be an option – rather everything *else* ought to be an option?
10. Love is an action, not a feeling. What is the key to loving those we don't feel like loving?

What new things did you learn in this study?

Reflection: *Let's commit ourselves afresh to being a community which is marked by love. We are called in the greatest commandment to a commitment to each other in obedience to Jesus, so that we point one another to the greatest news!*