

Learn from Jesus

[Announce Text] Please Open your Bibles to Luke 20:27-47. [Page 880](#)

[Scripture Introduction] Good morning, my name is Brett Sweet and I'm one of the pastors here at Grace Christian Fellowship where we exist to glorify God through gospel-centered worship, evangelism, discipleship, and community. We are continuing our series through the book of Luke.

[Prayer for illumination] Please pray with me...

[Illustration] Some of you remember this. A few years ago, someone hacked into our website, took the church directory, and then created an email very similar to mine. Claiming to be me. That person started emailing members that I was experiencing an emergency and that I needed people to buy a bunch of gift cards and put them in the mail. Most of you were on your guard, knowing that that didn't sound like me. But a few people were very considered. Surely they could trust their preacher. Their teacher. If there was anyone that they need not beware, it was me. But that wasn't me. It was someone false. Claiming to be a helper but actually causing harm. We learned to beware.

For Christians, it seems that the people we should most be able to trust are teachers. We're not often told publicly to beware false teachers. But if we learn from Jesus we learn that He, and nearly every New Testament author includes the need for us to beware false teachers. In order to beware false teachers we have to learn from Jesus. Are you willing to learn from Him today? Have you come to be a bit wiser? Or a bit godlier? Have you come looking for some answers? I hope you aren't just here because you're forced to be. Or because you think this church is about you proving you already know everything you know. That's what the false teachers we'll encounter thought. Instead,

[Proposition] Beware false teachers by learning from Jesus.

In Jesus' interactions with the Sadducees and others, we're meant to learn from Jesus. And we can beware three categories of false teachers. Then we'll learn much from Jesus through His true teaching. I'll announce them as I go as "Warning #1, 2, or 3" and "Lesson #1, 2, or 3." Let's dive in.

[Warning #1] Beware speculative false teachers

Read vv. 27-33

There came to him some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. And the second and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. Afterward the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife."

We have these Sadducees speculating about what it might be like at the final resurrection of the dead. But this is a false question meant to mock and make Jesus look ridiculous. The whole purpose is for the Sadducees to teach the false doctrine that there is no resurrection. There isn't a sort of life after death.

But we will go astray if we don't put this in the right context. We need to understand what they are referring to here that Moses wrote. And you can read about this in Deuteronomy 25:5-10. Hang with me. In ancient Israel, a person's name and property were meant to live on through a man's children. It was a sign that life had meaning and purpose and goodness. But, as some of us know, marriages don't always come. And marriages don't always result in children. So God, showing his care for the deceased husband's name and for the widow, offered a solution. The widow could marry her husband's brother. Her brother-in-law, which is *levir* in Latin. Which is why this was called Levirate marriage. And what would hopefully happen is that the brother-in-law would marry the widow and provide for her. Further, hopefully, they would have a child and the first child would act as the heir of the dead husband. He'd live kind of like an adopted child in his family with an inheritance of his own. The family line would be preserved.

So the Sadducees begin speculating about a possible scenario involving seven brothers. If the resurrection is true, Jesus, whose wife is this woman? She's been married to them all! But notice how insensitive this speculation is. Treating widowhood and childlessness as a sort of thought experiment merely to trap Jesus and seem superior to Him? They are out of touch with what it means to love people. What it means to care. Which is always at work when Jesus' teaches His lessons.

Warning #1 is to Beware speculative teachers. Now let's see Jesus counter their attack.

[Lesson #1] Learn from Jesus to believe Scripture's teaching on the Resurrection.

Let's read vv. 34-38

And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.

We will spend most of our time right here. And there is much to learn. And I can't say everything. Let's notice what Scripture teaches:

[Scripture to believe- A] There are two ages

There are teachers in churches and on Youtube who latch onto some obscure event and try to tie it into one of the more obscure verses in the Bible and claim that they've discovered what the Bible teaches about the future. Never mind that the Holy Spirit has been filling Bible-saturated Christians for millennia and nobody has ever noticed this before. And their speculations are so outlandish that they attract followers. But usually only for a while. Verses 34 and 35 tell us that there is this age and there is the age to come. The ages overlap in a sense, but there are not 7 or 3 ages. There are two. And they aren't the same. Galatians 1:4 calls this age an evil age. So, life will not always be like it is now, I don't think it will progressively better for everyone. Furthermore, this age will not just become the age to come as if it is one age but slowly evolving.

We're learning from Jesus to believe Scripture's teaching on the Resurrection. We're learning that there are two ages. We're also going to see

[Scripture to believe- B] The resurrection is true

If our sermon went only through v. 40, the main point would be all about the resurrection. That there is life after death. That the physical bodies we live in will be transformed to live forever in union with our souls at Christ's return. But these

Sadducees ignored most of what we call the Old Testament and focused only on the first five books of the Bible which are attributed to Moses. These Sadducees parallel **modern liberals** who choose to only believe what they want and *they* usually deny the physical resurrection too. Especially Jesus' resurrection. But Jesus meets them where they're at and teaches from their own Bible that the resurrection is true. He does it by referring to Moses' encounter with God in Exodus 3. There God tells Moses, in v. 6,

"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Jesus is teaching us to believe every word of Scripture. His whole argument turns on one word in the Bible- "am." Jesus says, "Sadducees, God didn't say I *was* the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I *am* their God. And guess what? Dead people don't have gods. But I *am* the God of these people who died in the past. But they continue to live now. So, the resurrection is true." And all of us need to notice that Jesus says in v. 35 that some are not considered worthy to be resurrected to the life to come. So not all people will be saved.

[Illustration] But then this week you are talking to your co-worker. Or the person cutting your hair. They ask you about your plans for the weekend. You mention that you plan to go to church. "Were you raised with any type of religion or spirituality?" You ask. And you listen to their answer. Then you say, "I'm a Christian so I'm just always curious what people think about Jesus. What they like and what they dislike. Would you be willing to share your thoughts with me? You don't need to worry about offending me, Jesus is teaching me to like people who are different from me." "Hmm, well I guess I like that Jesus was so wise. I like that Jesus loved all types of people. I want to be like that."

Now you will hear that all the time. And you will hear it from people who used to go to this church. People you thought were Christians. But do you know what you won't hear? "I want to be like Jesus by believing every word of Scripture." You see, many of Jesus' teachings and arguments turn on a single word of Scripture. He lived like all of Scripture in every part was without error. Are there difficulties? Yes. Does it take some work to know how certain passages relate to each other? Certainly! But it's the opposite of a solution to claim that something in the Bible

isn't really God's word. Breathed out by God. And Scripture teaches that there are two ages. It also teaches that the resurrection is true.

Let's notice something else that Scripture teaches

[Scripture to believe C] Marriage is temporary

The way that marriage is spoken of in the Bible should cause us to honor it and enjoy it. To protect it. But once we're in Christ's presence we will be like angels who aren't married. And we'll be like angels who never die. So, all the wonderful blessings we have in being married now are to be celebrated, but what's coming will be even better. The physical pleasures that marriage brings will be better in Heaven. The close conversations and relationships we have will be better in Heaven. We'll be united to Christ forever in a union and relationship so close, that the Bible uses marriage language between Jesus and His bride, the church. So, the speculating Sadducees have misunderstood marriage. By the way, this is just one of many ways that **Mormons** deviate from Scripture as well.

[Application] Beware speculative false teachers. Instead, find teachers who want to hold as closely to Scripture as possible. People who keep the main things the main things. That Scripture is without error and our ultimate authority. That the gospel is of first importance. That salvation comes by grace alone through faith alone. That God is big, and we are small. When people start to pull things out of proportion and be obsessed with end times, or spiritual gifts, or election, or making all kinds of rules from their own preferences. You're probably dealing with someone who is speculating rather than holding tightly to Scripture. We want to be teachers who hold closely to Scripture in everything, including what it teaches about the future.

Beware false teachers by learning from Jesus. Warning #1 was to beware speculative false teachers. Lesson #1 was to believe every word of Scripture. That was our longest lesson. Now

[Warning #2] Beware unteachable false teachers.

Let's look at vv. 39-40

Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." For they no longer dared to ask him any question.

The religious leaders- the Sadducees and the scribes, they recognize that Jesus has outclassed them, and they've stepped into their own traps. Instead of making themselves look smarter than Jesus, the opposite has happened. So, they concede that Jesus has spoken well. But they haven't really accepted and embraced His teachings. They are unteachable at this point. They will work together, not to learn and follow Jesus, but to kill Him.

[Application] Teachers shouldn't be tossed to and fro with every doctrine. So godly men will at times resist efforts to be persuaded by other Christians. Godly teachers will have thought deeply about things and made up their minds. This may seem unteachable, but that's not the case if they're holding on to Scriptural teachings. But even so, they should be willing to listen to those who disagree with them, even if it's only to understand a different point of view a bit better. And they must always be learning from Jesus. Nobody knows everything. There's always more to learn.

Beware unteachable false teachers.

[Lesson #2] Learn from Jesus the supremacy of the Son.

Jesus is teaching a lot in these encounters. And He has a lot to say in vv. 41-44

But he said to them, "How can they say that the Christ is David's son? For David himself says in the Book of Psalms, "The Lord (YHWH) said to my Lord (adonai), "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." David thus calls him Lord, so how is he his son?"

While some of the false teachers are speculating about hypotheticals, Jesus homes in on God's top priority. Who is the Messiah? Who will deliver God's people? Jesus re-centers us on Himself. This is what good teachers should do. And Jesus points out that it was prophesied that the Christ, the Messiah, would be the offspring of David. Luke has taken pains in the first two chapters of His gospel, to show that Jesus is from the line of David. But is that all that He is? Again, using Scripture, He quotes one verse- Psalm 110:1, to teach us the supremacy of the Son.

The Messiah is to be seated at the righthand of God the Father. The place of honor. The place of power. And David says that God (YHWH) says that about David's Lord (Adonai)- so these two Lords are different. But importantly here,

David has a Lord. The Great King of Israel must bow to someone. He must obey someone. Thus, the Messiah who is David's offspring, is not less than His human ancestor, but more. He is supreme. And Jesus wants us all to know this. He is divine. He is God.

[Gospel] May I tell you something I often pray? I pray that people in our church would not believe themselves to be Christians when they aren't. Some of us know certain facts about Jesus. We know these important truths: that Jesus is fully man as the offspring of David, and fully God as the second person of the Trinity. But we don't recognize how significant this really is. We mention His virgin conception and birth at Christmas. But we don't realize that the supremacy of the Son was a divine intervention to save us! It was an invasion of a holy God into a sinful world! And we believe in our heads that Jesus lived a sinless life. And we talk to the people about how Jesus died on the cross in the place of sinners. And we read apologetics that defend Jesus as the first of the resurrected people. As He teaches here. But we haven't really bowed and banked our lives on supremacy of the Son. We haven't gone all in!

[Illustration] Kids, let me tell you something ridiculous about adults. When you are a grownup and you get a job, you will go into the breakroom and see some sweet treats. Someone brought cookies or donuts or brownies. And here's what you'll notice. Most of them go really fast. But then you'll come in and there will be one and a half donuts left. And you'll come back and there's half of a donut left. And then you'll come back and there's a quarter of a donut left. Nobody wants to take the last donut! Despite the claims that they want to save some for someone else- come on...a quarter of an old-fashioned donut? Half a cookie? That's two bites! But they don't take it. Why? I think that they don't want to look too extreme. Even if they had already shoveled a couple whole donuts or cookies earlier in the day. They don't want to look like they've gone all in. And when you become a grownup, you start to do it too. But my concern is that people are like that with Jesus. They don't go all in. They don't want to seem extreme.

[Application] To be a Christian the Son of God must be supreme over everything! More important than sports. More important than friends. More important than school. More important than your dream job. More important than your dream spouse. More important than your family. More important than your health.

More important than your political party. More important than your country. More important than your church. More important than any of the teachers you want to listen to. David was the King of Israel, but he would call the Messiah "Lord." He can't be Lord if you only take three quarters of Him and leave a quarter in the box or in the Bible for someone else. You are trying to master and lord yourself over Him! Learn from Jesus the supremacy of the Son. Quit caring if the people around you think you're too extreme by having all of Jesus.

Don't do anything without consulting Him. Put all of yourself into Him. He must have taken all of your sin to the cross for you to be saved. You must receive all of His righteousness to be saved. And if so, He owns all of you! Live like He owns you and trust Him. Believe that He'll be your spiritual food. And notice an often-forgot aspect of the gospel that's on display here. When Jesus was resurrected, after 40 days He ascended to the Father's right hand where He's seated. Exercising His rule for you. This is called Christ's session. When you believe in Him He uses His session for you and your good. But if you resist Him, we hear Jesus saying that you'll be His enemy and you'll be forced to receive His wrath and be forced under His feet forever, which elsewhere He describes as Hell. You will see the Son as supreme one way or another. Bow now. Go all in now, and He'll use His rule for you. Don't wait and find that He will use His supremacy against you.

Find good teachers who can't let a Sunday go by without showing how Jesus relates to every part of the Bible. Find teachers who are always trying learn more about Jesus and get to know Him better. Please pray that this church would be filled with such teachers. Please embrace being teachers yourselves. Once you display maturity, be people who disciple others. But to do that we must be teachable. We must listen to Jesus and let His teachings sink in. Let them sting when they need to sting. Let them comfort when they need to comfort.

Beware false teachers by learning from Jesus. Beware speculative false teachers. Beware unteachable false teachers. Learn from Jesus- to believe every word of Scripture. And learn the supremacy of the Son. Now, the last warning and lessons, which we'll only look at briefly because these verses will also be in next week's sermon:

[Warning #3] Beware self-absorbed false teachers.

Let's read vv. 45 through the end of v. 47

And in the hearing of all the people he said to his disciples, "Beware of scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers."

There are teachers out there who are only concerned about what they can get out of having religious influence. It's not about the supremacy of the Son, it's about the supremacy of them. That they get fame and respect. That they get money. That they appear godly when they aren't. **Prosperity Gospel.**

Every person thinks about themselves too much. So this will always be a temptation. But, there should be some visible evidence of humility and a desire to lift up Jesus' name and not their own.

[Lesson #3] Learn from Jesus the hazard of false teaching.

Let's read the last sentence from v. 47-

"They will receive the greater condemnation."

To be a teacher is to be held to a higher degree of accountability before God. To be a false teacher is to receive a severe punishment. You've not only gone astray, you've taken others with you. You haven't loved your neighbor. You've hated them.

Warning about false teachers is a major emphasis in the New Testament. Not only does Jesus do so in all four gospels but most, not some, of the New Testament epistles have warnings about false teachers. This is really important. The stakes could not be higher. It's people's eternal souls! And it's their own eternal souls!

[Conclusion] On January 15th Italian financial police confiscated assets- including salaries, unemployment benefits, severance pay, eight plots of land, a nine-bedroom apartment, two garages, a motorcycle, a car, and \$189,000 in bank accounts from an Italian woman. Why? For 21 years she had worked as a teacher and substitute teacher. But when she was hired she presented a document falsifying her qualifications needed to be a teacher. She looked like a teacher. She sounded like a teacher. But she was a false teacher. We need the real deal. We need to learn from Jesus.