

## Luke 20:41–21:4 Bible Study

**Launch:** What do you think marks out a successful leader (Christian or secular)?

1. **Read Luke 20:41-45.** *There are three people represented in the quote from Psalm 110: “The Lord said to my Lord”. Who are they? (Does reading Psalm 110:1 help?)*

*1) The Lord = God (note LORD in Ps 110 shows us that it is God’s name, so it clearly is referring to God); David (the person speaking, as identified in the title of Ps 110, and by Jesus); and David’s Lord (whom we know to be the promised descendent of David who will fulfil the kingly role completely).*

**Read Psalm 110.** Given that the whole Psalm is about the Messiah, what do we learn about him from Psalm 110 (both the part that is quoted, and the rest of the Psalm)?

*V1 - He reigns at God’s right hand; he is appointed to that position by God; he will rule over his enemies; V2 - God will give him power to rule (like V1); V4 – he is an eternal priest-king (Heb 7 explains this as the meaning of the Melchizedek connection); V5 – he will judge in power. [v3 is tricky – I take it that it’s referring to him having a band of loyal followers = the redeemed. V7 is more tricky! Something to do with him being sustained]*

2. Why does Jesus raise this issue? What have the teachers of the law got wrong in their expectation of the Messiah? And how have they been treating Jesus (who we know is the Messiah)?

*The teachers of the law have been limiting the Messiah to being the ‘son of David’. That is, they see him simply as a human ruler who will have an earthly kingdom – thus they are looking for someone to restore Israel to power by overthrowing the Roman rulers.*

*NOTE that Jesus is the son of David (cf. Matt 1:1; Rom 1:1-3). They are not wrong in that. But he is much more!*

*The irony that the Messiah is standing face to face with them... yet they are trying to catch him out and have him punished (20:20-21a). These people who study God’s word for a living have missed what God’s word says about him, and hence do not recognise him.*

3. **Read Luke 20:45–21:4.** *Jesus contrasts two different responses to God. Fill in the table to compare/contrast the two:*

	<b>Teachers of the Law</b>	<b>Poor Widow</b>
<b>How impressive do they look to others?</b>		
<b>What status do they have in society?</b>		
<b>How does Jesus view their response to God?</b>		

What is the main point of Jesus’ contrast here?

4. Think about: What does it look like for us to live with Jesus as Lord (=God’s appointed king)? What sort of things do you find hard to submit to Jesus in?

i. Why is it so hard to imagine that submission to a king could be a *good* thing? Why do we resist it so much?

*(Lots could come up. A couple things that could be useful: A) Sin is one aspect – I don’t like listening to someone else – I want to be in charge! B) There is also the reality that we see so much abuse of power in human leadership... which needs to drive us to see that God/Jesus is the good king who rules us in justice and acts for our good at all times – seen firstly in Jesus’ death and resurrection, but promised to us in ALL things – Rom 8:28)*

ii. How does this passage help us think about what we should expect from our Christian teachers?

*(I think the focus here should be on taking God’s word seriously – unlike the teacher of the law who ignore parts of it – esp. with relation to who Jesus is) But see what else comes up.*

iii. What dangers do those of us who have responsibility in leading/teaching need to be conscious of, and to flee from?

iv. How does the poor widow model to us how to how to honour God?

Finish by praying. Give God thanks for Jesus’ perfect rule, and ask for help to submit to him in how we live our lives.