

**Note:** *Our Lord's public ministry is coming to an end. He has gone up from Jericho to Jerusalem on his last journey. He will stay in the city and its environs until his death. He has made his entry as Messiah into the temple and has cleansed it.*

1. As Jesus was teaching in the temple and preaching the "Good News," the scribes and elders challenged him by asking: "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority." How did Jesus turn the tables on his challengers? (Luke 20:3)
2. Why did the response of Jesus cause a dilemma for the scribes and elders? (Luke 20:4-6)
3. Can you think of a reason why Jesus didn't simply answer their question? (Luke 20:8; 7:29-35)

**Note:** *The theme of the parable of the wicked tenants is deeply rooted in Sacred Scripture and is very familiar to Jesus' listeners. (Jer 10:21; 12:10; Ezek 19:10-14; Ps 80:7-18) The vineyard is Israel; the tenants are the leaders of Israel; the servants sent by the lord to the vineyard are the prophets. Psalm 118 is used during Passover celebrations. In this parable, Jesus also brings together three Old Testament texts that employ the image of a stone. Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14-15; Dan 2:44-45*

4. In the parable of the wicked tenants, when the vineyard owner sent his people to collect his share of the harvest:
  - a. What did the tenants do to the servants? (Luke 20:10-12)
  - b. What did the tenants do to the owner's son, and why? (Luke 20:13-15)
5. Jesus asked the listeners if they understood the meaning of the parable. (Luke 20:17) How did he answer his own question? What imagery did he use to answer it? (Luke 20:17-18; Ps 118:22)
6. The scribes and chief priests were trying to find ways to trap Jesus. What was the "clever" question the temple spies asked Jesus? (Luke 20:21-22)
7. In asking his question, what two groups of people could Jesus provoke, and why? (Luke 20:24-26)
8. Sadducees, who do not believe in resurrection, challenged Jesus with another hypothetical question based on the Mosaic Law. How is their question an attempt to prove that there is no resurrection? (Luke 20:28-33)
9. Jesus finally gives a direct answer to the Sadducees, showing from scripture that there is a resurrection. Explain the logic of Jesus' answer. (Luke 20:37-38)
10. David was the ideal king of Israel by whom all others were measured. How does Jesus use the Old Testament to show that the Messiah would be superior to David? (Luke 20:41-44; Is 8:14-15)

***If you would like a challenge?***

11. What different things do the Jewish scribes do insincerely to gain public honor and recognition? (Luke 20:44-47) What would be comparable insincere behavior today?