Bible Study 76.

Wednesday May 10

 Luke’s Gospel (continued)

Chapter 20. There has been a running verbal battle going on in Luke’s Gospel from the very start. On the one side are the Jewish authorities led by the Pharisees, scribes, and lawyers and on the other Jesus and his disciples. Why?

Two possibilities come to mind. Luke and his communities throughout Asia Minor, Greece and Italy are in dispute with Diaspora Jews over :-“was Jesus the Messiah and where now is Judaism going?”------- Second, in Luke’s Gospel there are so many eye witnesses of the events of Jesus’ life and now these stories are being told.

20. v.8. Jesus refuses to answer the Jews as to ‘where his authority comes from’.----- In v.9 Jesus tells the parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard.

This is not unusual in Jesus’ teaching since Vineyards are commonplace in Palestine. But this is a direct allegory. Jesus is the Son; God is the Vineyard owner; the Jews are the bad workers.

“What will the owner of the Vineyard do?” asks the Parable. In Luke Jesus’ life has already been lived and he has died like the son in the story. Luke is now saying: “Everything that has happened since by way of the destruction of Jerusalem and the death of Judaism is your fault you rejected God’s Son.”

Jews in Rome, Corinth and Ephesus must have been mad hearing this.

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.” V.17.

Now we come to v.20 Paying Taxes to Caesar. Notice that they do not give a name to the emperor, rather they simply say “Caesar!” ---

-Are the Christians being questioned as to their loyalty to the then Emperor? The coin that is asked for is Roman ‘a denarius,’ and not the coins of Israel. Again, there is this banter back and forth between the two sides.

Now Jesus is confronted in v.27 by the Sadducees who do not believe in an ‘afterlife’ yet the first question they ask of him is about heaven. Jesus replies to their proposition about marriage in the afterlife by stating that there will be none.

Verse 41 is enormously important for it asks the question “Whose Son is the Christ?”—There is a debate going on between Jew, Gentile and Christian------“Who was Christ and did we really kill God’s Son?”

In v.45. Jesus condemns the scribes and the teachers of the law.

Read Chapter 20 & 21.