

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“The King’s Authority Challenged”

Luke 20

August 9, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

Big Idea

The true disciple submits to Christ’s authority rather than challenging it.

Disciple-Making Focus

Disciple-makers stand confidently under Christ’s authority even when the world questions or opposes Him.

I. Disciple-Makers _____ to Christ’s Authority (vv. 1-19)

“Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Who is it who gave you this authority?” (Luke 20:2, CSB)

Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” (Luke 20:17–18, NIV)

Key Truth:

Rejecting Christ’s authority never removes His authority.

II. Disciple-Makers _____ Under God’s Authority (vv. 20-40)

“Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” (Luke 20:25, CSB)

“He is not the God of the dead but of the living, because all are living to him.” (Luke 20:38, CSB)

Key Truth:

Every area of life belongs under God’s greater authority.

III. Disciple-Makers _____ the King Above All (vv. 41-47)

“For David himself says in the Book of Psalms: The Lord declared to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.’ David calls him ‘Lord.’ How, then, can the Messiah be his son?” (Luke 20:42–44, CSB)

Key Truth:

True worship exalts Christ—not ourselves.

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Small Group Questions — Week 23

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

Week 23: The King's Authority Challenged

Text: Luke 20

Start Here — Reflective Question

Who has been one of the most influential authority figures in your life? What made you willing to trust and follow their leadership?

Read the Passage

Have someone read Luke 20 aloud before discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. Submitting to Christ's Authority — Luke 20:1–19

The religious leaders questioned Jesus' authority, but their real problem was not a lack of evidence—it was an unwillingness to submit.

- Why do you think the religious leaders refused to acknowledge Jesus' authority, even after witnessing His teaching and miracles?
- In the Parable of the Wicked Tenants, what does Jesus reveal about God's patience and mankind's response to Him?
- Jesus said the rejected Stone became the Cornerstone. What does it mean to build your life on Christ rather than yourself?
- What areas of life are most difficult for people to fully surrender to Jesus' authority?

2. Living Under God's Authority — Luke 20:20–40

Jesus answered questions about government and the resurrection by pointing people to God's greater authority.

- What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “Give...to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's”?
- Why do you think the Sadducees tried to discredit the resurrection?
- How does the certainty of the resurrection affect the way Christians live today?
- The sermon said:

“Caesar's image may be on the coin...but God's image is on you.”

- What does it mean to give yourself completely to God?

3. Honoring the King Above All — Luke 20:41–47

Jesus revealed that He is both David's Son and David's Lord, then warned His disciples about religious hypocrisy.

- Why do you think Jesus ended the chapter by warning His disciples about the scribes?

- What is the difference between outward religion and genuine discipleship?
- The sermon said:

“Religion asks, ‘How do I look?’ A disciple asks, ‘Who is reigning in my heart?’”

- How would you answer that question personally?
- How can we help others see Jesus as King rather than simply admire Him as a good teacher?

Disciple-Making Connection

The Disciple-Making Focus this week was:

“Disciple-makers stand confidently under Christ's authority even when the world questions or opposes Him.”

- Is there an area where God is calling you to more fully submit to His authority?
- Who in your life needs to hear about the authority and lordship of Jesus?
- What spiritual conversation could you begin this week that points someone toward Christ?
- How can this group pray for you as you seek to live under the authority of King Jesus?

Close Together

Spend time praying together. Pray that God would:

- Help you gladly submit to Christ's authority.
- Give you courage to honor Jesus above the approval of others.
- Strengthen your confidence in the hope of the resurrection.
- Reveal any areas where pride or self-rule are replacing His lordship.
- Give you opportunities this week to point someone toward Jesus, the true King.

Weekly Challenge

Each morning this week, pray:

“King Jesus, help me gladly submit to Your authority today. Show me one opportunity to honor You through my words, my choices, and my conversations. Use me to help someone else take one step closer to You.”

Then intentionally look for one opportunity this week to surrender an area of your life more fully to Christ and begin one spiritual conversation that points someone to the true King.