

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #79

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Luke 20:41-44

Sermon Date: Apr 8, 2007

### The Ultimate Bottom Line

They were nice ladies, and they wanted to come in and talk to me about God. "Sure, c'mon in!"

We enjoyed getting to know one another over a several month period. They'd stop by once a week with a rather ill-conceived 'version' of the Bible. Our conversations looked nice on the surface – but it was actually warfare! I knew I was in a spiritual battle when I asked them who they believed Jesus was. They carefully responded that he was the son of God. So I probed. "But he said he was God, right?" They attacked the notion of the trinity. "He couldn't be God and the son of God at the same time! That doesn't make sense." I took them into the true Word of God, and lovingly showed them God's bottom line. They heard the gospel, but they weren't willing to yield.

What about you? What makes sense to you? The ultimate bottom line – the core essential of our faith, and the key to our eternity – comes down to (1) who we say and believe Jesus is, and (2) what we do in response.

Lord, help us each to see clearly who Jesus is, and to turn from our sinful ways and yield our very lives to you.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact [studieditor@southshorebaptist.com](mailto:studieditor@southshorebaptist.com)*

*South Shore Baptist Church  
578 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043  
(781) 749-2592*

**Bible Study:**

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 20:41-44</p> <p><sup>41</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "How is it that they say the Christ is the Son of David? <sup>42</sup> David himself declares in the Book of Psalms:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"The Lord said to my Lord:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">"Sit at my right hand</p> <p><sup>43</sup> until I make your enemies</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">a footstool for your feet."</p> <p><sup>44</sup> David calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?"</p>	

2. Read Psalm 110, which Jesus quoted in his Luke 20:41-44 riddle. Who is speaking to whom? What is the tone of this passage? What is the overall theme?

Scripture	Observations / Questions
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Psalm 110</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Of David. A psalm.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."</p> <p><sup>5</sup> The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> He will drink from a brook beside the way; therefore he will lift up his head.</p>	

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

<b>Observation</b> What does it say?	<b>Interpretation</b> What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

<b>Application</b> How do I apply what it means?

### Solve the Riddle:

5. What is your answer to Jesus' riddle in Luke 20:41-44? If Jesus is David's Lord, how can he also be David's son?

6. How did David know the things he wrote about Jesus?  
(see Mark 12:36)

7. Jesus is David's great, great, ... great grandson. How many generations apart are they? (See Matthew 1:1-17) About how many years does this represent?

8. Despite this long, many-generation path between them, David refers to Jesus as his "Lord."

a. The term "lord" is not one we commonly use today. What did it mean to refer to someone as "lord" in David's day? What are some words or titles we use today which have similar meaning?

b. Why does what we call Jesus or who we say He is matter?  
(consider Acts 2:21, Romans 10:9, 13)

c. What about you, who do you say that Jesus is? Have you invited him to be the "lord" of your life?

9. David was aware of the importance of the generations that would follow him. Indeed God had promised David, as he had promised Abraham and Isaac before him, with abundant descendants and a spiritual legacy that would endure forever (see 2 Sam 7:12-16). This same promise of generations of spiritual descendants extends to each of us as followers of Christ. He has promised you spiritual fruit as you "go and make disciples."

a. Looking back in your own 'spiritual genealogy', who invested in you and helped you come to know about the gospel of Jesus and his kingdom? How did they help you?

b. In light of God's promise of spiritual descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore (Gen 17:4-8, 22:17-18), how can you invest yourself (your time, energy, prayers, love) in helping someone else know about Jesus and follow him closer? Who is on your heart to help? How could you help them?



### God's Promise to Abraham and to All Christians



I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me. (Genesis 22:17-18)

10. Read Luke 9:18-23. After asking Peter (and us) who we say he is, Jesus goes on to challenge his followers to “take up our crosses daily and follow him.” With Easter just days away, reminding us of Jesus being persecuted and literally carrying a heavy cross up a hill toward his death for us, perhaps this is an especially good time to ask yourself “How am I are doing at submitting to Jesus’ lordship?”

a. Have you accepted Christ as your Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now? If you believe in your heart that the following is true, then make it your prayer by speaking it to God.

I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.  
I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn  
from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life.  
I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior.

b. If you profess to be a follower of Christ, where do you see God giving you opportunities to take up your cross – to die to self, to serve others more sacrificially, to live for Christ more? How can you yield to Christ’s lordship more?

c. In the days ahead, are there one or two specific ways in which you could take up your cross and follow Jesus sacrificially?