

# Luke 20:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them.

## Analysis

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**They perceived that he had spoken this parable against them**—The religious leaders' immediate recognition (ἐγνώσαν, egnōsan, 'they knew') that Jesus's parable of the wicked tenants condemned them demonstrates their guilt-laden consciences. Luke emphasizes the temporal urgency: **the same hour** (ἐν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ, en autē tē hōra) they sought to arrest him.

Yet **they feared the people** (ἐφοβήθησαν τὸν λαόν, ephobēthēsan ton laon)—a theme throughout Luke's passion narrative. The religious elite recognized Jesus's prophetic indictment but were constrained by political expediency rather than convicted unto repentance. Their desire to **lay hands on him** foreshadows the arrest in Gethsemane.

## Historical Context

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This occurs during Holy Week (circa AD 30), in the Jerusalem temple courts where Jesus taught publicly. The Sanhedrin's power was real but limited by Roman oversight and popular sentiment—Jesus's Galilean following and recent triumphal entry made him politically dangerous to arrest openly.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. When have you recognized truth but suppressed it due to fear of consequences or loss of status?
2. How does political calculation corrupt spiritual leadership, and what safeguards protect against this?
3. What does the leaders' immediate recognition of Jesus's parable reveal about the clarity of their guilt?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐζήτησαν	οἱ	ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	οἱ	γραμματεῖς	
And	sought	G3588	the chief priests	And	G3588	the scribes	
G2532	G2212		G749	G2532		G1122	
ἐπιβαλεῖν	ἐπ'	αὐτοὺς	τὰς	χεῖρας	ἐν	αὐτοὺς	τῇ
to lay	on	him	G3588	hands	the same	him	G3588
G1911	G1909	G846		G5495	G1722	G846	
ὥρα	καὶ	ἐφοβήθησαν	τὸν	λαόν	ἔγνωσαν	γὰρ	ὅτι
hour	And	they feared	G3588	the people	they perceived	for	that
G5610	G2532	G5399		G2992	G1097	G1063	G3754
πρὸς	αὐτοὺς	τὴν	παραβολὴν	ταύτην	εἶπεν		
against	him	G3588	parable	G3778	he had spoken		
G4314	G846		G3850		G2036		

