

# 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

**They perceived that he had spoken this parable against them**—The religious leaders' immediate recognition (*ἐγνωσαν*, *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

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

**Psalm 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 the chief priests And the scribes  
G2532 G2212 G3588 G749 G2532 G3588 G1122

ἐπιβαλεῖν ἐπ' αὐτοὺς τὰς χεῖρας ἐν αὐτοὺς τῇ  
to lay on him hands the same him G3588  
G1911 G1909 G846 G5495 G1722 G846 G3588

ώρα καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν τὸν λαόν ἐγνωσαν γὰρ ὅτι  
hour And they feared the people they perceived for that  
G5610 G2532 G5399 G3588 G2992 G1097 G1063 G3754

πρὸς αὐτοὺς τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην εἶπεν  
against him parable he had spoken  
G4314 G846 G3588 G3850 G3778 G2036

