

21:23-46

● REVIEW...

- o FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
- o SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
- o THIRD - The Rejection of the King - **Matthew 19-25**
- o Triumphal Entry...
 - Jesus came to Jerusalem for the FINAL time - to celebrate the PASSOVER...
 - He came riding in on a DONKEY - because He came to make PEACE - **Zechariah 9:9**
 - The crowds laid down branches [Maccabees] - and cried out HOSANNA - **Psalm 118:26**
 - Because they assumed Jesus had come to set them free from ROME [not sin]
 - Therefore - only FOUR days later the same CROWD would cry out CRUCIFY!
- o Cleaning the Temple...
 - Jesus went straight into the Temple - and chased out those bought and sold...
 - Because they had turned what was supposed to be a House of PRAYER - into a den of THIEVES...
 - Then rebuked the PRIESTS - because they did NOT understand the SIMPLE Gospel message!
- o The Fig Tree...
 - The next morning as Jesus returned to the Temple - He was HUNGRY...
 - He came up to a FIG tree - but it had NO fruit - so He cursed it and it died...
 - Because we can NEVER cover our sin [Adam and Eve] - we need to have it FORGIVEN...
 - But if we have FAITH in Jesus we can say to the MOUNTAIN [Moriah] be cast into the sea!

● 1ST - BLINDED TO THE TRUTH... vs. 23-27

- o 1st - Jesus Authority... vs. 23
 - Not Happy...
 - When He came to the temple the chief priests and elders confronted Him as He was teaching!
 - THREE days before the PASSOVER [and crucifixion]
 - Jesus returned to the TEMPLE - that He had cleansed just the day before - **Matthew 21:12**
 - And while He was teaching the people [present] - the PRIESTS and ELDERS came to Him!
 - Imagine you are running a business - making GOOD money...
 - And suddenly someone comes in and chases out all of your EMPLOYEES...
 - Then he starts letting people into your store that you had BANNED...
 - The first question you are going to ask them - who put you in charge!
 - Whose Authority...
 - [They] said: By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?
 - The leaders DEMANDED to know by what [whose] AUTHORITY Jesus did these THINGS...
 - THINGS [ταῦτα] - kicking out those who sold in the temple - but letting blind and lame in...
 - His AUTHORITY [ἐξουσία] - from the root of [ἐκ] from [εἰμί] I am - **Exodus 3:4**
 - There are over TEN thousand religions in the world today...
 - Because people do NOT like being told what to do - they like to do things THEIR way!
 - But the truth is that we do NOT have the AUTHORITY [ἐξουσία]
 - We do NOT get to choose HOW to be saved - because ALL [πᾶς] authority was given to Jesus!
 - **Matthew 28:18** - "All authority [ἐξουσία] has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
- o 2nd - Baptism of John... vs. 24-26
 - One question... vs. 24-25
 - Jesus answered and said to them: I also will ask you one thing which if you tell Me.
 - I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things:

- The baptism of John - where was it from? From heaven or from men?
- Jesus conditioned His ANSWER - on the LEADERS answering ONE question...
- The BAPTISM [βάπτισμα] of John - was it from HEAVEN [οὐρανός] or MEN [ἄνθρωπος]
- Because these TWO choices were also the ONLY options for His AUTHORITY [ἐξουσία]!
- The LEADERS had already asked John this same question - **John 1:25**
- And John had told them EXACTLY why he BAPTIZED...
- It was to encourage the people to REPENT - to prepare their hearts for the MESSIAH...
- But the LEADERS missed this - because they did NOT think they needed to REPENT!
- **John 1:26** - "I baptize with water - but there stands One among you whom you do not know."
- From Heaven... vs. 25
 - The [leaders] reasoned among themselves saying: If we say From heaven.
 - He will say to us: Why then did you not believe him?
 - The LEADERS gathered together to [imperfect] DISCUSS [διαλογίζομαι] their RESPONSE...
 - There were only TWO possible answers - if they said from HEAVEN [οὐρανός]
 - Then they REASONED Jesus would ask them why they did NOT believe [πιστεύω] him!
- From Men... vs. 26
 - If we say: From men. we fear the multitude for all count John as a prophet!
 - But if they said from MEN [ἄνθρωπος] - they FEARED [φοβέω] the people...
 - Because EVERYONE [πᾶς] held that John was a PROPHET!
 - Sad that in their DISCUSSION we see the HYPOCRISY in their heart...
 - They did NOT believe the BAPTISM of John was from HEAVEN [did not get baptized]
 - Because they did NOT think they needed to REPENT - they believed they were GOOD...
 - But at the same time they were AFRAID to answer honestly...
 - Because they were more concerned about the opinions of men - then being HONEST!
 - The root of HYPOCRISY - comes from knowing the TRUTH but NOT wanting to admit it...
 - When know we are SINNERS - but want to act like we are PERFECT...
 - We are going to have FOOLISH conversations within ourselves...
 - As we try and figure out how to act like something [good] - we are NOT [we are sinners]!
- o 3rd - Unable to See... vs. 27
 - Blinded...
 - They answered Jesus and said: We do not know!
 - Their ironic answer to Jesus - was they could NOT see [εἶδω]
 - Because their HYPOCRISY kept them from the TRUTH!
 - Jesus would not say...
 - [Jesus] said to them: Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things!
 - As a RESULT - neither would Jesus tell where His AUTHORITY [ἐξουσία] came from...
 - Not that He did NOT want to tell them - but since they were BLINDED by their HYPOCRISY...
 - Jesus was going to have to try to EXPLAIN it to them - using TWO parables...
 - Even though Jesus knew in THREE days these men would condemn Him to death...
 - He was still willing to try and REACH them - give them the TRUTH!
 - I love that Jesus does NOT give up on us - even when we are blinded by our HYPOCRISY...
 - He continues to try and find a way to show us - we just need to REPENT!
- 2ND - Two CHOICES... vs. 28-32
 - o 1st - Two Sons ... vs. 28-31
 - Thinking... vs. 28
 - What do you think?
 - Jesus wants these LEADERS to THINK [δοκέω]
 - I have LOST my glasses many times - looked everywhere for them...

- Only to have someone point out - they are on my head!
- Often all it takes for us to FIND what we are MISSING...
- Is for someone to take the time and make us THINK - give us another perspective!
- First Son... vs. 28-29
 - A man had two sons and He came to the first and said: Son go work today in My vineyard.
 - He answered and said: I will not! But afterward he regretted it and went!
 - A man who had TWO sons [because there are only TWO choices]
 - He commanded [imperative] the FIRST son to go work in His VINEYARD...
 - The son answered by saying he did NOT want [θέλω] to OBEY...
 - But AFTER - he REPENTED [μεταμέλομαι] and went and OBEYED his Father!
- Second Son... vs. 30
 - Then [the Father] came to the second and said likewise.
 - And he answered and said: I go sir! But he did not go!
 - The SECOND son answered by saying - yes LORD [κύριος]
 - But then he did NOT go and OBEY what they FATHER had commanded!
- Will of the Father... vs. 31
 - Which of the two did the will of his father? They said to Him: The first!
 - Jesus asked the LEADERS - which of the TWO did the WILL [θέλω] of the FATHER...
 - This they could SEE - it was NOT the son who said yes LORD - it was the one who REPENTED!
 - It is EASY to raise our hand and say yes LORD...
 - But WORDS are NOT enough - we show who we are by our ACTIONS...
 - If we SAY we are Christians - but are still acting like the world around us where is Jesus...
 - Our lives after we BELIEVE in Jesus should be DIFFERENT - changed!
 - **James 2:18** - "I will show you my faith by my works."
- o 2nd - No Repentance... vs. 31-32
 - Sinners first... vs. 31
 - Jesus said to them:
 - Assuredly I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.
 - For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him.
 - But tax collectors and harlots believed him!
 - AMEN [ἀμήν] - that is why the worst SINNERS [tax collectors and harlots]
 - Will go [indicative] before the RELIGIOUS leaders into the Kingdom of God...
 - John came to show them the RIGHT [δικαιοσύνη] way - they did NOT believe [πιστεύω]
 - BUT [δέ] - the worst SINNERS [tax collectors and harlots] did BELIEVE [were baptized]
 - Like the FIRST son who was NOT doing the will of the FATHER - but then REPENTED!
 - No Faith... vs. 32
 - When you saw it - you did not afterward relent and believe him!
 - The LEADERS saw the SINNER [tax collectors and harlots] repenting...
 - They had the right WORDS [yes LORD] - but they did NOT repent [μεταμέλομαι]
 - And as a RESULT they did NOT believe [πιστεύω] the BAPTISM of John was from HEAVEN!
 - We might be SURPRISED by who gets into Heaven...
 - There are going to be some people there we were sure would NOT make it...
 - And there might NOT be some people there who we assumed would...
 - Because it is NOT about our WORDS - it is about our FAITH...
 - Only those who SEE they are SINNERS - and chose to REPENT - can be SAVED!
- 3rd - REJECTING THE TRUTH... vs. 33-46
 - o 1st - The Vineyard ... vs. 33
 - Nation of Israel...

- Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard.
- [He] set a hedge around it dug a winepress in it and built a tower!
- Jesus told them to LISTEN [imperative] to SECOND parable - also dealing with a VINEYARD...
- The owner put a LOT of work into His VINEYARD...
- He put up a FENCE - He dug a WINEPRESS - and built a TOWER...
- All to emphasize that He had invested a LOT into the land - it was IMPORTANT to Him!
- This was NOT new imagery - God had used it BEFORE...
- Isaiah told the leaders of Judah the same thing - the VINEYARD was Israel!
- **Isaiah 5:7** - "The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel!"
- The helpers...
 - And He leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country!
 - The MASTER did NOT stay to work in the VINEYARD...
 - He gave it [ἐκδίδωμι] to some HELPERS [γεωργός] to care for it...
 - Then He left His people [ἀποδημέω] to go a faraway place - for a LONG time - **Luke 20:9**
 - The MASTER expected the HELPERS [religious LEADERS] to care for His VINEYARD [Israel]!
- o 2nd - The Harvest... vs. 34-41
 - The Prophets... vs. 34-36
 - When [harvest] drew near He sent his servants to the vinedressers so might receive its fruit.
 - And the vinedressers took his servants - beat one - killed one - and stoned another.
 - Again he sent other servants - more than the first - and they did likewise to them!
 - The MASTER sent His SERVANTS [δοῦλος] to gather the FRUIT at harvest time...
 - But those HELPERS - BEAT one servant - threw STONES at another - and even KILLED one...
 - AGAIN the MASTER sent [ἀποστέλλω] more SERVANTS - and they did the same to them!
 - The SERVANTS who were sent were the PROPHETS of the Old Testament...
 - They were SENT by God to encourage Israel to TURN back to God - bear FRUIT for God...
 - Including John the Baptist - who came to prepare the way for Jesus!
 - **Acts 7:52** - "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute!"
 - The Son... vs. 37-39
 - Then last of all he sent His Son to them saying: They will respect my son.
 - But when the vinedressers saw the son they said among themselves:
 - This is the heir. Come - let us kill him and seize his inheritance.
 - So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him!
 - FINALLY He sent His SON - saying the HELPERS will REPENT [ἐντρέπω] because of Him...
 - BUT [δὲ] instead they said - we NEED [imperative] to KILL Him...
 - Because then we might [subjunctive] be able to take His INHERITANCE [Israel]
 - So they took the SON - cast Him out - and KILLED Him [prophetic]!
 - The SON is Jesus Christ - the HEIR to the Kingdom of God...
 - The religious LEADERS never wanted to SERVE God or His people...
 - And Jesus was a threat to their control over the people - their ability to make money!
 - Wicked men... vs. 40-41
 - Therefore - when the owner of the vineyard comes what will he do to those vinedressers?
 - They said to Him: He will destroy those wicked men miserably.
 - Lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons!
 - Jesus asked the LEADERS - what would the MASTER [κύριος] do to these men...
 - AGAIN they could SEE - the MASTER would DESTROY [ἀπόλλυμι] the wicked [κακός]
 - And give His VINEYARD to OTHERS [ἄλλος] - who would give the fruit in the seasons [καιρός]!
 - There is a COMMON teaching in the church that God REPLACED Israel...
 - But God did NOT say He changed His VINEYARD [Israel]
 - Just that He would raise up OTHERS [same kind] to watch over His VINEYARD!

- Paul uses himself as an example that God has NOT rejected Israel – **Romans 11:1**
 - All of the Apostles [ἄλλοις] and everyone in the FRIST church were Jews [until **Acts 10**]
 - They are the proof that God has NOT rejected Israel – Jews were and are still being saved...
 - And as long as the sun rises – waves crash on the seashore – Israel is His nation!
 - **Jeremiah 31:36** - “I am as likely to reject my people Israel as I am to do away with the laws of nature!” [NLT]
- o 3rd - The Cornerstone... vs. 42
- Rejected... vs. 42
 - Jesus said to them: Have you never read in the Scriptures:
 - The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
 - Jesus told them - they have NEVER understood [ἀναγινώσκω] what the Bible said...
 - The STONE the builder REJECTED - has become the CORNERSTONE - **Psalm 118:22**
 - According to tradition – when Solomon built the first Temple...
 - The first stone sent to the building site was the chief CORNERSTONE...
 - When the workers received the STONE they were not ready – so they set it aside and forgot...
 - The stone the builders rejected – became the chief CORNERSTONE!
 - This is the MOST quoted verses from the OLD Testament [six times]
 - Jesus is the stone that the builders REFUSED – **Matthew 21:42** – **Acts 4:11** - **I Peter 2:7**
 - There is a principal of Bible interpretation – important TRUTHS...
 - If Jesus said [Gospels] – the Disciples taught it [Acts] – and the Epistles explain it [I Peter]
 - Then what is being stated is a VERY important TRUTH in the Bible!
 - Marvelous... vs. 42
 - This was the LORDS doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!
 - The REJECTION of Jesus was not the idea of MEN – it was the PLAN of God from the beginning!
 - When Jesus was crucified – the plan was still a MYSTERY – **I Corinthians 2:7-8**
 - But it did not stay a MYSTERY – THREE days later He rose from the grave...
 - And everyone MARVELED – because they saw the PLAN...
 - God came down to DIE – and pay our DEBT – so we could LIVE!
 - This is the Day...
 - **Psalm 118:24** - “This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!”
 - This is a very famous verse – often sung – often quoted...
 - But it is not referring to TODAY – it is talking about THE day [הַיּוֹם]
 - The DAY Jesus came and died – to take away the SIN of the world...
 - The DAY that all of our HOPE rests on – the DAY when the DOOR to heaven opened...
 - Therefore – we will REALLY [cohortative] rejoice and be glad because of it!
- o 4th - The Choice... vs. 43-46
- Fall on Jesus... vs. 43-44
 - Therefore I say to you the kingdom of God will be taken from you.
 - And given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken.
 - But on whomever it falls it will grind him to powder!
 - Because the LEADERS had rejected Jesus - they would be REPLACED...
 - And it would be given to people [ἔθνος] who would bear FRUIT...
 - The CHOICE was simple - what did the LEADERS want...
 - They could be like the FIRST son - REPENT and FALL on the STONE [Jesus]
 - If they CHOSE to be BROKEN [passive] - then Jesus would HEAL them...
 - Or they could be the SECOND son - and the STONE would fall and CRUSH [active] them...
 - They would be JUDGED and cast out of the presence of God - **Revelation 20:12**
 - There are NO limits to what God will allow to get our attention...
 - The question is are we willing to fall on Him – admit our need – and be BROKEN...

- Or do we insist on going our own way – He falls on us – and we are CRUSHED...
- It is better for them to be BROKEN here – then CRUSHED in heaven!
- Closer to the cross... vs. 45-46
 - Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables.
 - They perceived that He was speaking of them.
 - But when they sought to lay hands on Him they feared the multitudes.
 - Because they took Him for a prophet!
 - The LEADERS [priests and Pharisees] - KNEW [γινώσκω] Jesus was talking about them...
 - They were HESITANT to arrest Him because they FEARED [φοβέω] the people...
 - But that FEAR would not last - long the CROSS was only THREE days away!