## 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 retuned 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!

## • $1^{st}$ - 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  $[\tau\alpha\tilde{\upsilon}\tau\alpha]$  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 THERE 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  $[\pi \tilde{\alpha} \zeta]$  authority was given to Jesus!
    - Matthew 28:18 "All authority [ἐξουσία] has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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...
  - ullet 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  $[\pi\tilde{\alpha}\varsigma]$  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 3<sup>rd</sup> Unable to See... vs. 27
  - Blinded...
    - They answered Jesus and said: We do not know!
    - ullet Their ironic answer to Jesus was they could NOT see [εἴδω]
    - 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!
    - ullet 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!
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Two Choices... vs. 28-32
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> 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  $[\theta \hat{\epsilon} \lambda \omega]$  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  $[\theta \epsilon \lambda \omega]$  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 2<sup>nd</sup> No Repentance... vs. 31-32
  - Sinners first... vs. 31
    - Iesus 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 [ $\dot{\alpha}\mu\dot{\eta}\nu$ ] 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]
    - $\bullet~$  BUT [ $\delta \acute{\epsilon}$ ] - 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]
    - ullet 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!
- $3^{RD}$  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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 [δέ] 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]
    - ullet 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 [ἄλλος] 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  $4^{th}$  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 [ $\check{\epsilon}\theta vo\varsigma$ ] 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!