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BIBLE STUDY

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REJECTED BY MAN BUT ACCEPTED BY GOD

Matthew 21:28-46

Matthew 21:28 "But what think ye? A [certain] man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard."

Matthew 21:29 "He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went."

Matthew 21:30 "And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I [go], sir: and went not."

Instead of answering the question posed by the chief priests and elders, he told them a parable. A man had two sons whom he instructed to go and work in the vineyard. The first son refused but later changed his mind and obeyed. The second son said he would work but didn't go. Jesus here, made these hearers be their own judge. The man in this, who had two sons, was symbolic of God and the two sons were symbolic of the Pharisees and sinners. These Pharisees claimed to keep the law perfectly. They had nothing to do with the spirit, just with the letter of the law. The others knew nothing of the law, but eventually accepted the spirit. God called His son to work in His vineyard (church). The first son showed the repentant heart. This second son stood for the Pharisees with their outward form, but no performance of duty. Jesus made them judge themselves with this parable.

Matthew 21:31 "Whether of them twain did the will of [his] father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you."

Matthew 21:32 "For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen [it], repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."

Jesus then asked, which of the two did his father's will? By answering correctly, the Jewish leaders condemned themselves. For the tax collectors and prostitutes refused to obey God but later repented. The leaders, on the other hand, claimed to follow God but didn't have the actions to back it up. And even when they saw the tax collectors and prostitutes repent and believe, they still didn't change their minds. Lips that say, "Amen," mean nothing without hands and feet backing them up. Jesus said by this: These repentant shall go to heaven, but you will not make the cut unless you, like them, repent and do the first work. His rebuke, here, was not for those who repented, but for the self-righteous who knew the law and did not repent. John preached Christ who is the way. Some were baptized of John but did not walk in their salvation; but these were not even repentant to be baptized. You could also, see the Gentiles in the first son and the Jews in the second. Gentiles rebellious but came to repentance. The Jews-having law, eager to

obey, but fell short, because of self-righteousness. In this next parable, we will see the vineyard (church) let out to husbandmen (preachers).

Matthew 21:33 "Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:"

Matthew 21:34 "And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it."

The householder, here, was symbolic of God, who founded a church (vineyard); and God, Himself, built a hedge around it. Who is our tower? These husbandmen, elsewhere in Scripture, would be called shepherds. God gives authority in His church to shepherds. These servants that went in were the prophets. God wanted to know what have you done with this vineyard I left in your care? He had entrusted His law to these people (what had they produced with it?) We might ask ourselves. What have we produced with what God has given us? Will there be a good harvest? These prophets, God sent, were to carry back a report to God.

Matthew 21:35 "And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another."

Matthew 21:36 "Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise."

Strong mostly Notice, who was doing this to the prophets. It was not the ordinary people but was rather the ones unto whom God had let out His vineyard (church) to. We know these self-righteous people did not want to hear the messages of the true prophets. They beat them and accused them of not being truly sent of God. Does all this sound familiar, not only for the Jews, but for our day right now? A true profit is rejected by most ministers today because the ministers would have to clean up their acts if they received him. In our society today, instead of killing their bodies, they try to discredit those who bring the truth. God does not like the report He is getting on His church.

Matthew 21:37 "But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son."

Of course, these people were so caught up in the law, that they could not see a loving God full of grace. Here, we see Jesus speaking prophetically about what they would do to Him, the son of God. The sad thing today is that we are crucifying Jesus all over again. Most churches today do not even recognize the Son of God. They do not reverence Him. They make Him just a man. Not only do they not reverence Him as God manifest in the flesh.

Matthew 21:38 "But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance."

Matthew 21:39 "And they caught him, and cast [him] out of the vineyard, and slew [him]."

People, do you recognize the teaching that would make us Gods? We are not God; We never will be God. We cannot take away His position in the church. We belong to the Son, we are not Him, and we never will be equal with Him. He can share His inheritance with us, but it is His inheritance. Here, again, this passage has many meanings. One of which was that these self-righteous, self-appointed authorities felt if they could do away with Jesus, they could take His place. This was the very thing Lucifer was thrown of heaven for. Jesus then launched into

another parable about a landowner who planted a vineyard and leased it to tenant farmers and went away. At harvest time, he sent his servants to the farmers to collect his fruit, but they rebelliously beat and killed them! So the landowner sent his son, expecting them to respect him, yet the wicked farmers killed the son too.

Matthew 21:40 "When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?"

Matthew 21:41 "They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out [his] vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons."

Matthew 21:42 "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

This spoke of the Jewish church, how it rejected Jesus, and how ultimately killed Him on the cross. I say, again, we can see what is happening in our churches, as well. You can hardly find Jesus in most of them today. He has been tossed out in favor of things of the world. You can readily see what God had already begun to do to these husbandmen. Look all around you. They had told their own doom. The church was taken from them and let out to others. Jesus was making a point here that the Jews rejected Jesus, so God turned to the Gentile. Look on down in history to our day. God wants a church without spot or wrinkle (holy people). God is taking His vineyard back, again, and letting it out to those who will do the will of the landowner. God will not allow the vineyard to be owned by others. Jesus asked what will the vineyard owner do to those farmers? There's only one possible answer, and the religious leaders gave it: He will completely destroy those terrible men. Again, the leaders' failure to understand the Bible was actually a fulfillment of the Bible. Jesus claimed that he was the stone that the builders rejected, as described in Psalms. Thus, he was the "son" in the parable scorned and (soon-to-be) killed and they were the wicked tenant farmers.

Psalms 118:22-23

22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

Matthew 21:43 "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Matthew 21:44 "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

You see, the cornerstone fastens and holds securely two walls together. I believe these two were symbolic of the Jew and the Gentile. God is the architect. The builder might reject this stone for the corner, but ultimately, the architect has the say and the builder must bow to His wishes. This symbolism of falling on the stone means-we humble ourselves before God, being brought down by the stone (Jesus Christ). The next symbolism is saying total rejecting of this cornerstone (Jesus Christ). The next symbolism is saying total rejection of this cornerstone (Jesus) makes the wrath fall on you and will pulverize you. Jesus is Judge of the world. When His judgement falls on the unrepentant sinner, it is their total destruction.

Matthew 21:45 "And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them."

Matthew 21:46 "But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet."

As a result, the kingdom of God would be taken away from them. The one they rejected would be their Judge. Realizing that he was speaking about them, they wanted to seize him, but they feared the people who regarded Jesus as a prophet. We, like these chief priests and Pharisees, must see that He speaks to us, as well. Instead of destroying Him, fall on this rock and be broken of Him so that He will not fall on us at judgement and condemn us to destruction.

QUESTIONS

1. These two sons, in the first parable, were symbolic of whom?
2. Who was the man symbolic of?
3. Jesus said what 2 went into the kingdom before these self- righteous Jewish leaders?
4. What was the vineyard symbolic of?
5. Jesus was not rebuking the repentant, but whom?
6. Who were the husbandmen symbolic of?
7. When did he send the servants, in the parable?
8. What happened to the servants?
9. Who were the servants symbolic of?
10. Who was doing this against God?
11. What did they (the husbandmen) do to Him?
12. Why did they want to kill the Son?
13. What is God doing today with the evil husbandmen?
14. Jesus is making a point that the Jew rejected whom?
15. What did Jesus call Himself pertaining to the building?
16. What does this do to two walls of a structure?
17. What were the two walls symbolic of?
18. What is the symbolism of falling on this stone?
19. What does it symbolize for the stone to fall on you?
20. What did the priests and Pharisees think about these parables?
21. Why did they not destroy Jesus then?