

Matthew 21:28-22:14 –26 January 2020

“Are You Bound To A Dead Religion?”

Introduction

Christ comes into Jerusalem for the last week of His earthly ministry and life.

This is the culmination of His dedication to save our souls by being the Lamb of God, our substitutionary sacrifice.

As John Baptist declared, “Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world”

Just as the Passover Lamb was examined for 4 days to prove its perfection, Jesus is being done the same

But before Jesus can be examined / questioned, Jesus wants them to understand that they don't have the authority to examine Him (Re-read Matt 21:23-27)

But why? They're not of the Kingdom, they are bound to a dead religious system of self-promotion

Today - 3 features of people bound up in dead religion

The Parable of the Two Sons

#1 – They’re not converted (Chap 21:28-32)

Read Vs 28-30

1. Here’s scenario, but what’s important about it?
2. The question you ask yourself about this will determine if you’re thinking spiritually.
 - a. Which of them was more polite?
 - b. Which of them had more comfortable life?
 - c. Which of them was easier to get along with?
3. To have a good relationship with the father in the story, did they do what he asked?

Read Vs 31a

1. Not only the question, but certainly the answer is self-evident.
2. What a beautiful picture of what God wants for us.
 - a. We can live in unity w/ God delighting in the easy work within His vineyard for us.

Read Vs 31b-32

1. When John the Baptist came
 - a. The tax collectors and harlots repented
 - b. The priests and elders did not repent
2. Which group is now doing the will of the Father in heaven? (The first)
3. Things that aren't effective by themselves
 - a. Good intentions.....Good words
4. Good intentions and words need to be mixed with the power to keep them.
5. You're in a dead religion when you haven't gained the power to live for God thru conversion.
 - a. Read II Tim 3:5 – Form but no power
 - b. Read I Tim 1:12-13 – Enabled me...
6. Repentance is believing something you didn't previously believe that prompts you into new actions. (Repeat this)
7. Conversion is repentance regarding our sin and salvation in Jesus Christ. (Read Matt 13:15)

The Parable of the Rented Vineyard

#2 – They’re cruel and selfish (Chap 21:33-46)

Read Vs 33-37

1. Vs 33 - Beautiful, well-equipped vineyard was rented out to these husbandmen.
2. Vs 34-35 – 1st servant sent & disrespected at all different levels.
3. Vs 36 – 2nd servants were sent
 - a. What grace to send more servants thinking:
 - i. Maybe it was a mistake
 - ii. Maybe they’ve repented
4. Vs 37 – People say, “When did Jesus ever claim to be God’s Son?” Here’s one example
 - a. God the Father is the Vineyard Owner
 - b. Israel is the husbandman renting the land
 - c. Two rounds of servants are the messengers and prophets God has sent with His message

Read Vs 38-40

1. Those stuck in dead religion are motivated by selfish and wrong things.
 - a. They wanted the fruit, blessing and inheritance of the vineyard for themselves.
2. Dead Religion will also make you cruel
 - a. They'll willing to kill to get what they want
 - b. Their selfishness blinded them to their cruelty.
3. Vs 40 – What should the landowner do?
 - a. This is self-evident
 - b. If we stop the self-promotion that lead to cruelty, we'd see that God is good and delights to share His bounty with us.
 - i. God wants us to trust that He has good plans for us
 - ii. Read Matt 25:21

Read Vs 41

1. Cruelty/selfishness short time b4 being judged.
2. “Other husbandmen” Church (Read Joh 10:16)

Read Vs 42-43

1. Jesus puts the focus on Himself as preeminent
2. God is desiring a productive fruit bearing relationship with us.

Read Vs 44

1. We have but 2 choices in relation to our Maker. There's isn't a third option.
 - a. Be selfish/cruel and be ground to powder by the Rock of Jesus Christ and His worthiness
 - b. Be believing and repentant as Christ the Rock breaks you to remake you!

Read Vs 45-46

1. They knew their role in Christ's story
2. This means they knew Jesus' role in the story!
3. The dead religion they are bound to would have them lay hands on him and fulfill exactly what Jesus just said of them in the parable!
 - a. But they need to wait, b/c of politics.

The Parable of the Wedding Attendants

#3 – They don't value the things of God (Chap 22:1-14)

Read Vs 1-3

1. This is to picture God the Father offering for Israel to come to the wedding of Jesus Christ (to the church)
 - a. Remember Israel also has an equal opportunity to join the church
 - b. Blessings of the King are to be showered on all who would just come! What love!
 - c. But why won't they come?
 - i. We find out next....

Read Vs 4-7

1. What were they prioritizing in life?
 - a. Some went to their farm or *agro*
 - b. Some went to their merchandise or *emporia*
 - c. Some went back to their rebellion / selfishness
2. Notice the characteristics of what people value
 - a. Some are busy about earthly advancement.
 - i. Some do this privately as the farm
 - ii. Some do this publicly as economic traffic
 - b. Some just want leave alone to party and not be told what to do
 - i. As those who slew the servants in vs 6
 - ii. Read Luke 21:34
3. The King is offering so much more, but they place more value in the short-term things in front of them.

Read Vs 8-10

1. Israel is rejected from coming to wedding
2. 'Bad & good' are from Great Trib (What grace!)

Read Vs 11-13

1. The good & bad are called to come by faith, but those that try coming another way aren't accepted.
2. We cannot come by our own efforts, but need to be clothed in His righteousness.
 - a. Read Isa 61:10

Read Vs 14

1. Summation of the parable
 - a. “Many are called” – as the people at the beginning of the parable that would not come and also the people from the highways and byways.
 - b. “But few are chosen” – only those from the highways and byways were proven to be the chosen.
2. “Many are called” – Read John 3:16 – ‘whole world’
3. “Few are chosen” – Read Eph 1:4

Conclusion –

We've seen 3 features of people bound up in dead religion

1. **They're not converted**

- a. There's a change that happens that gives you the will to do what pleases God.
- b. Good intentions & good words are powerless unless you are gifted God's H. S.

2. **They're cruel and selfish**

- a. It's still about self-promotion, whatever the cost.
- b. They would gain all that their cruelty is trying to get, if they would just yield to H. S.

3. **They don't value the things of God**

- a. We need to look beyond this life before time is up
- b. Consider the great value of what God has for us at His great wedding feast and beyond!