

Matthew Chapter 21

- Approaching the Passover feast. (Last of 12 signs) **Exodus 12:3-6**
 - Jesus is deliberately moving towards the cross.
 - Jesus is pressing His claim as the King.
 - Jesus engages in several confrontations with the religious leaders.
 - Time frame: 4 days prior to Calvary.
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- In the previous chapter Jesus deals with and heals the physical blindness of Bartimaeus and his friend who un-abashedly cry out for His help and healing.
- They take those steps of faith that were necessary – and as a result they receive their sight, and we're told that they then follow Jesus.
- As we get into this chapter, Jesus is confronted with spiritual blindness

V: 1 Bethpage (house of figs), close to Bethany, just outside of Jerusalem, actually on the mount of Olives. (See map)

- This is not a fulfillment of **Zechariah 14:4**. There are two lines of Messianic prophecy, and they need to be kept in their proper order.

Zechariah 14:4 “And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

V: 2 Demonstrating supernatural knowledge, omniscience. Similar to **John 1:48**

V: 3 Donkey owners, probably believers.

- “The” Lord as opposed to “my” Lord, or “a” Lord – this is specific, like a definite article.
- Recognizing the Lordship of Jesus, and His right to take the animals or anything else.

V's 1-11 Describe Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

- Parallel accounts: **Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-15**.
- Usually Jesus moved discreetly, desiring not to be noticed, because it was not yet His time.

- Here He orchestrates a grand reception, a high profile event.
- Why? **Romans 1:20** “... so that they are without excuse.”
 - The Jews couldn't say “if we had only had a chance, an opportunity to receive Him.”
- *This is His time!*

V: 4-5 This is a parenthetical break:

Key phrase: “... *that it might be fulfilled...*”

- This is the fulfillment of 3 Messianic prophecies:
 1. Jesus quoted **Zechariah 9:9**
Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”
 - Jesus quoted it with a slight switch from “Rejoice” to “tell ye”, because it wasn't really time to rejoice yet. The rejoicing would take place at His second coming as described in **Zechariah 14:4**.
 2. **Psalm 118:24-25** “This is the day” – Hosanna = save now!
Psalm 118:24-25 “²⁴This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save now (Hosanna), I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.”
 3. **Daniel 9:24-25** “²⁴Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. ²⁵Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”
- **Nehemiah 2:1-8** (page 783) Sir Robert Anderson, The Coming Prince.
- **Nehemiah 2:7-8** “⁷Moreover I said unto the king, if it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come unto Judah; ⁸And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to

make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.”

- From the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem (**Nehemiah 2:1-8**) on March 14, 445 BC. To the coming of the Messiah would be 69 weeks of years. (Jewish Vs Babylonian calendars) or 483 years. 173,880 days later on April 6, 32 AD Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey being proclaimed as King by the people.

Daniel 9:26 “And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”

- This is that 2nd line of Messianic prophecy – that the Messiah will suffer and die for the sins of the people.

V: 6 *“And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,”*

- Obedience! – I wonder if there was a sense of excitement, if they hurried to see the fulfillment?

V: 7 Ass / donkey. A kings transportation? No. A stark contrast to everyone’s expectations.

1. **1 Kings 1:33** - Solomon rode David’s mule as a symbol of his right to be King.
2. Roman rulers came in on a black stallion, decked out in gold armor, accompanied with a display of power.
3. Jesus came at this time on a donkey with a mission of humility leading up to Calvary.
4. The next time, Jesus’ return will be on a white horse, with a sword, eyes of fire, making war.

Revelation 19:11-16 ¹⁸²⁹ “¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron:

and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

- The next time Jesus returns, He will be on a white horse, coming back with a sword, His eyes will be a flame of fire, and He’s coming back to make war.
- According to the other Gospels, Jesus rode the colt.

Mark 11:2 / Luke 19:30 “And saith unto them, go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him.”

- They placed their clothes on the colt, and on the roadway / path leading to Jerusalem: an act of worship to their king, homage to be sure; but for the wrong reason.
- As Jesus calmly rides this animal into Jerusalem, it is complete submitted to the will of God. Nature and animals always are, it’s men that resist the will of God – in part because they are the only ones created in God’s image, with the ability to choose.

Psalm 8:1, 6-9 “¹O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens... ⁶Thou madest Him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under His feet: ⁷All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; ⁸the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. ⁹O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”

V: 8 Cut down branches. [Hailed as King](#). 1/3

- The ensign / symbol of the Maccabean revolt was the palm branch, which combined with their other actions revealed the peoples desire for a king that would deliver Israel from Rome.

Luke 19: 38 “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

- The One who “comes in the name of the Lord” is an admission or statement that this person speaks for and come in the authority of the Lord, which in this instance is the word “kurios” – the NT equivalent of Jehovah or Yahweh.

V: 9 “Hosanna” = “save now” **Psalm 118:25**

- 3rd prophesy fulfilled.
- Parallel account: **Luke 19:28-40** read.

V: 10 “Moved” – seismic event / earth quake.

Parallel account:

John 12:12-15 “¹²On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet Him, and cried, Hosanna: blessed is the King of Israel, that cometh in the name of the Lord. ¹⁴And Jesus, when He had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, ¹⁵fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass’s colt.”

- Politically sensitive time: Passover was a time of national pride, and seemingly most of the revolts against Rome or their various conquerors happened at this time
- The symbol of the Macabean revolt was two crossed palm frawns. Now all these people are singing about the “real” king who is on His way to Jerusalem, being hailed as the Messiah

V: 11 “Prophet” recognized in part (1/3) of who He is: Prophet, Priest, and King = God!

Luke 24:19 “And he said unto them, what things? And they said unto Him, concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.”

2 Corinthians 6:2 “For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

- It would appear that another reason for this very public display, and the acknowledgment of the people who were now worshipping Jesus – was to force the religious leaders to act.

John 11:48 “If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”

John 12:19 “The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? Behold, the world is gone after Him.”

- The question here is: what caused Israel’s spiritual blindness?
 1. The leaders were not interested in the truth; they were only concerned with protecting their own interests. They were blinded by their own greed.
 2. They didn’t keep their charge:

Jeremiah 23:3-4 “³And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴And I will set up shepherds over them

which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.”

Nehemiah 8:5-8 “⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; for he was above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up: ⁶And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, and Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariaah, Hozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”

3. Their spiritual leaders had robbed them of the truth of their own word, and had substituted man made traditions in place of God’s word.

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶... well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

Psalms 19:7-8 “⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

Acts 20:27-28 “²⁷For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. ²⁸Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

Psalms 119:18 “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

V: 12 This is totally contrary to contemporary church culture and popular church growth programs steeped in the seeker friendly movement, the relative, the here, the now, the wow pop personality church culture.

2nd time clearing out the temple. (1st parallel: Mark 11:15-18, Luke 19:45-46)

(compare both, context, content, omissions.)

1st time:

John 2:13-17 “¹³And the Jews’ Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, ¹⁴and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep

and doves, and the changers of money sitting: ¹⁵And when He had made a scourge of small cords, He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; ¹⁶and said unto them that sold doves, take these things hence; make not My Father's house an house of merchandise."

- Cana of Galilee, to Capernaum, up to Jerusalem for Passover. Made a scourge of chords.

VS: 2nd time: (Recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke) Back drop of triumphant entry, curse the fig tree, then cleansed the temple, challenged by Pharisees regarding authority.

- 1st stop was the temple, not the Antonia Fortress. He was dealing with the Jews not the Romans.
- "Sold" – certified sacrifices at inflated prices.
- No Roman or Gentile coinage accepted, Temple Shekels exchanged at a favorable rate.
- According to Josephus these concessions were owned and operated by Caiaphas the High Priest, a very wealthy man.

1 Peter 4:17 "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

Ezekiel 9:4-6 ⁴"And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. ⁵And to the others he said in mine hearing, go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: ⁶slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house."

- Leviticus Ch. 15 – healthy church vs: sickly, weak, anemic church.
- Ministry guided by the profit margin as opposed to the Holy Spirit.

V: 13 House of prayer.

Isaiah 56:6-7 ⁶"Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; ⁷even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall

be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.”

- Den of thieves

Jeremiah 7:11 “Is this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, even I, have seen it, saith the Lord.”

- The concessions weren't set up in the inner courts, but in the court of the Gentiles, which God had intended for a witnessing tool. Many were turned away from the God of Israel due to this negative witness. (See Temple diagram)

Isaiah 42:6-7 “⁶I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; ⁷to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

- These men did not preach a popular message, eventually they sawed Isaiah in half, Jeremiah was tossed into the city sewer.
- My House – **1 Corinthians 3: 16 / 6:19** – we are His house, and we too are surrounded by witnesses. **Hebrews 12:1**

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not know that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

V: 13 What is Jesus looking for in His temple? It is to be a “sanctuary”, a safe place from predators.

1. Prayer
2. Truth
3. Healing / ministry.

V: 14 The real purpose of the Temple? It was a place to meet with God.

Exodus 29:42-46 “⁴²This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. ⁴³And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory. ⁴⁴And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office. ⁴⁵And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. ⁴⁶And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God.”

1. A place to meet with God, a point of contact.
2. A place to hear God's voice.
3. A place of service to God.
4. A witness, that they should know that He is their / our God.
5. A place to have fellowship with God.

- What happens once we're in His presence? Healing, forgiveness, restoration.

Psalm 16:11 "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Isaiah 35:5-6 ⁵"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break forth out, and streams in the desert."

- The people came to Jesus in the Temple, that is where you find the priests serving, that is what Jesus, our Great High Priest was doing – ministering to His people.

Hebrews 4:14 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession."

- Prophet – Priest - King

V: 15 The scribes saw but ignored the miracles. **John 14:11**

John 11:48 "If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation."

- The people were spiritually blind, lacking a shepherd. Religion had removed the Word of God as the authority, having been replaced by the traditions of men.

Matthew 15:14 Blind leaders of the blind.

Isaiah 9:16 Leading the people to destruction.

Luke 11:52 "Who unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." Taken away knowledge, kept others from it!

- The people recognized Jesus as "the Son of David", a prophetic title that we get from: **Isaiah 11:1**

V: 16 This is their 2nd attempt to get Jesus to "control" His people...

At the triumphant entry:

Luke 19:39-40 ³⁹And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto Him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. ⁴⁰And He answered and said unto

them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

- All of this is a fulfillment of Messianic prophecy:

Psalm 8:2 “Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.”

V: 17 Jesus went out of the city daily. Bethany was 15 furlongs / about 2 miles away.

John 11:18 “Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about 15 furlongs / two miles away.”

- Jesus doesn’t stay where He is not welcome or received, or received for the right reasons.

V: 18 Parallel account: **Mark 11:13-14, 20.** (read)

- Jesus got hungry as a man. **Hebrews 4:15**

V: 19 Fig tree, national symbol of Israel. **Jeremiah 8:13** **Hosea 9:10**

- “A” fig tree, by itself, set apart.
- Mark records the detail that it was not yet the season for figs. This makes it appear unreasonable for Jesus to curse the tree for something outside it’s ability to produce.
- Fig trees in that area produced an early – edible crop of fruit – before the leaves actually appeared. This was the indicator that there would be a 2nd crop of fruit upon the tree. If there was no first crop, even if there were leaves, then there would be no 2nd crop – as was the case of this tree.
- Typically if there were leaves there should be fruit. “Hypocritical” fig tree. This tree had an outward appearance of fruitfulness, but nothing, no fruit on the inside.

2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

- This is the only miracle in which Jesus cursed something rather than blessing. Destroying rather than restoring.
- Jesus talks about trees that don’t bear fruit. **John 15:1-8**

- This tree was cursed – no fruit – before Jesus got there.
 - If we don't satisfy Jesus, we won't satisfy anyone else, including ourselves.
1. We need to be careful not to judge our Lord, we don't understand everything that He does – but for starters there is the premise that everything He does is right and good.
 2. In this case, the Lord knew that this tree would never bear fruit, and He simply did what any good farmer would do in removing a barren tree from His orchard.

Luke 13:6-9 “⁶He spake also this parable; a certain man had a fig tree planted in His vineyard; and He came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. ⁷Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? ⁸And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: ⁹And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.”

- The withering of the fig tree is actually an interpretation of the tumultuous welcome He had just received in Jerusalem.
- When Jesus came into Jerusalem, the triumphant entry, there were leaves, which spoke of a profession – yet no fruit for God's kingdom. Jesus was hungry for fruit from the nation, the fruit of faith, the fruit of the spirit, yet there was none.
- Because there was no early fruit, He knew there would be no later fruit from that unbelieving people / nation – and so He cursed the fig tree / the nation and it immediately withered.
- This foretold of the withering of the nation and the judgment which fell upon Israel in 70 AD when the nation and city were destroyed by the Romans and they were dispersed throughout the known world.
- The two parables that Jesus tells later in this chapter seem to pretty much underscore the same message.

V: 20 This is called sudden destruction!

1 Thessalonians 5:3 “For when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”

V's: 21-22 In contrast to the fruitless tree. If you have faith, you can do greater things.

- Prayer of faith, as Jesus would pray.
James 4:2b-3 “^{2b}... ye have not, because ye ask not. ³Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

James 5:16 "... the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

1 John 3:22 "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

V: 23 The chief priests challenge Jesus, questioning Him about authority:

- "These things" – Temple cleansing? Fig tree withering? Miracles in general?
- They were not denying that they occurred, only the source.

John 14:11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake."

John 9:16 "Therefore said some of the Pharisees, this man is not of God, because He keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, how can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them."

Matthew 28:18 "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."

V's: 24-27 **Hebrews 7:25** – our advocate / attorney in action!

- If Jesus had answered their question as having authority from man, or from the people – then they would have used that and discredited Him. If He'd said His authority was from His father, they would have accused Him of blasphemy.
- On the other hand, if they had answered Jesus' question honestly, they would have had their answer.
- John was divinely appointed of God, John testified of Jesus, the Messiah, then they would have understood where Jesus truly got His authority – from the Father!

V: 26 To accept / recognize the source of John's testimony, who commissioned him would in turn require the accepting of the one he preached about.

- If they go with the truth, they get burned, if they go the other way, they're afraid of the people.

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Acts 10:34 "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

The standing question was “[by what authority do you do these things?](#)” Jesus now begins His response to that question using three parables to answer that the authority is that of the [Father](#), the [Son](#), and the [Holy Spirit](#)!

V: 28 “*A certain man had two sons*” = a father, God the Father in this case.

John 6:28-29 “²⁸Then said they unto Him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? ²⁹Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”

- “Vinyard” = Israel **Isaiah 5:1-7** ([turn to / read / p.1034](#))

V: 29 The initial response is disobedience leading to repentance and obedience.

Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

Romans 11:25-26 “²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

V: 30 The 2nd son was also commanded to go into the vineyard and work; his initial response was obedience, or in this case the appearance of obedience, but in actuality he refused.

- This is the difference between outward observance and being right on the inside.

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶He answered and said unto them, well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites (define), as it is written, this people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And He said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

V: 31 Which of the two actually did the will of the Father? This was determined by their actions, not by what they said.

- In the same way, our faith is determined by what we do, not necessarily by what we say.

James 2:17-18 “¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy
faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

- Based on the issue of obedience, which is faith or believing in the One that God sent; the tax collector and harlots, both of whom were despised by the general populace and particularly by the religious leaders were ahead of the game in terms of entry into the kingdom of heaven.
 - *“We can’t learn new truth if we disobey what God has already told us.”*
W. Wiersbe
-

V: 33 Vineyard —————> **Isaiah 5:1-30**

- Husband = stewards, overseer’s – the priests, Pharisees, Sadducees, & Scribes.

V: 34 The servants referred to here are the prophets.

V: 35 The Jews killed the prophets that were sent to warn them:

2 Chronicles 36:14-16 “¹⁴Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the
people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen;
and polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.
¹⁵And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by His messengers, rising
up betimes, and sending; because He had compassion on His people, and
on His dwelling place: ¹⁶But they mocked the messengers of God, and
despised His words, and misused His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord
arose against His people, till there was no remedy.”

Nehemiah 9:26, 30. “²⁶Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled
against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets
which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great
provocations.”

“³⁰Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by
thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would thy not give ear: therefore gavest thou
them into the hand of the people of the lands.”

Matthew 23:29-39 Turn to / read:

V: 36 Steven’s testimony:

Acts 7:51-52 “⁵¹Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do
always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. ⁵²Which of the
prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them
which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have
been now the betrayers and murderers.”

V: 37 *“But last of all He sent unto them His Son, saying, they will reverence My Son.”*

Hebrews 1:1-2 *“¹God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;”*

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”*

(Acts 4:12, Galatians 4:4, 1 Timothy 2:5)

V: 38 Jesus is telling their story ahead of time:

Matthew 12:14 *“Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against Him, how they might destroy Him.”*

John 11:47-48 *“⁴⁷Then gathered the chief priests and Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. ⁴⁸If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”*

V: 39 *“... and cast Him out of the vineyard...”* Golgotha.

He knows! “Burned”, hearts revealed!

Psalms 139:1-3 *“¹O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. ²Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.”*

Peter's testimony:

Acts 2:22-23 *“²²Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: ²³Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”*

V: 40-41 They pronounced their own judgment, condemned themselves.

2 Samuel 12:1-7 David you are the man.

John 3:18 *“He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

V: 42 Stone - "In our eyes" – you're seeing it here and now!

Psalm 118:22 "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner."

Isaiah 28:16 "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

V: 43 "Nation" / people = church (a dispensation, not replacement theology)

Romans 11:25-26 ²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

- Fruits **John 15:1-8**

Galatians 5:22-23 ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

V: 44 "Stone" = Jesus

Isaiah 8:14 "And He shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem."

Daniel 2:34-35 ³⁴Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. ³⁵Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

Jeremiah 23:29 "Is not my word like as a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"

V: 46 "Fear" – consistently.

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

- That is not what we are seeing here, this is the fear of man.

Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man bringeth a snare... but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

Matthew.21

The standing question was “[by what authority do you do these things?](#)” Jesus responded with 3 parables:

1st parable: (V: 28-32) Who’s authority is in question in this parable?

- Who’s authority is being described? That of the Father.

2nd parable: (V: 33-41) The householder sent servants (prophets), then finally He sent His Son saying “they will reverence my son”.

- Who’s authority is being described? The authority of the Son.

3rd parable: Matthew 22:1-10 describing the authority of the “servants”.

- Jesus’ response to that question using three parables to answer that the authority is that of the [Father](#), the [Son](#), and the [Holy Spirit](#)!