

# Bible Study 2023-2024

## Class #19

2/27/24

# Synoptics 23 – 24

- Matthew 21 (Cont)

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- **Matthew 21:23-27** *“And when he entered the temple the chief priests and elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching,...Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things”*
  - Jesus told the Jewish authorities that He would answer their question if they answered His question
  - Then, He asked them, “If John the Baptist was a prophet or a false prophet?”
  - The Jewish leaders were afraid to answer Him because they had not listened to John, while the crowds had listened to him

# Matthew 21 (Cont)

- They knew that their honest answer might turn the crowd against them
- When they refused to give Jesus an answer, He told them He would not provide an answer to their question

# Matthew 21 (Cont)

- **Matthew 21:28-32** *“What do you think?...you did not afterwards repent and believe him”*
  - Father suggested that sometimes people miss-read this passage, producing some bad theology
  - Some think that this means that tax collectors and harlots (as tax collectors and harlots) are entering into the Kingdom of God
  - What it says is that tax collectors and harlots **believed in Him**
  - That is to say, they listened to Him and **repented** of their sins (while the Jewish leaders did not listen to Him and repent)

# Matthew 21 (Cont)

- Even after, they saw Him in person and they still did not repent
- Father pointed out that it says “repent” twice in this passage
- This does not mean simply that wicked people were entering into the Kingdom of God, but that wicked people who repented were entering
- In fact, they were entering before those whom you would expect would be righteous and then enter
- This was to show the value of repentance
- Jesus was pointing out that they were breaking the Torah

# Matthew 21 (Cont)

- **Matthew 21:33-42** *“Hear another parable....and it is marvelous in our eyes”*
  - This should remind us of **Isaiah 5,\*** which contains the same parable (Jesus added the idea of the tenant farmer)
  - Again, this should remind us of the fig tree, as we look at the best season for growing fruit
  - The tenants beating the servants prevented them from gathering the fruit (the fig tree provided no fruit)
  - The “stone rejected by the builders,” harkens back to **Psalms 118:22 \*** which was about David’s victorious entry into Jerusalem

# Matthew 21 (Cont)

- The reference to the rejection of the cornerstone may be a reference of the replacement of Saul by David as King of Jerusalem
- Another interpretation was that it pointed to Herod, who was a sort of king and governor at the time Jesus came as the Son of David who will become King of Jerusalem



# Matthew 21 (Cont)

- **Matthew 21:43-46** *“Therefore I tell you,...because they held him to be a prophet”*
  - The idea that a stone falling on someone would crush them is a reference back to **Daniel 2** where the Messiah will begin the Kingdom of God as a small stone that became a great mountain
  - The Pharisees thought Jesus was talking about them, and they did not like it
  - When they tried to arrest Jesus, they feared the multitude who thought that He was a prophet
  - We will now continue the story in **Matthew 22**

# Synoptics 23 – 24

- Matthew 22

# Matthew 22

- **Matthew 22:1-7** *“And again Jesus spoke to them in parables,...and burned their city”*
  - This parable is similar to the parable of the tenant farmers, but this time, it is about a king who gives a wedding feast for his son
  - By referring to “destroying those murderers” it was obvious that this was the same parable

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- The previous parable was about a king's land being cultivated by wicked individuals who harm and eventually kill his servants, causing him to plan to kill them in punishment
- In fact, should prepare us for what we he will even burn their cities (Father suggested that this will see in **Matthew 24\***, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem)

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:8-14** *“Then he said to his servants,... For many are called, but few are chosen”*
  - Of interest here is the presentation of an individual invited to a wedding feast who came without being properly prepared for the wedding
  - Those invited to a wedding were given a wedding garment
  - Since everyone had different clothing in that day, guests at a wedding were to wash and then put on beautiful wedding garments so that everyone would have nice clean garments for the wedding

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- This guy came in without his nice clean wedding garment
- He does not have what had been given to him for the wedding
- He must have lost it
- The Fathers of the Church saw this (as being about the Kingdom of God), and a reference to entering the church

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- Just because someone came to the church via baptism (where they were given the (white) garment of righteousness), it does not mean that they will maintain it until the end
- There are individuals then and now who have lost this gift
- This is one of the texts that shows that salvation is given as a gift, but it can be lost!

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:15-16** *“Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk,...for you do not regard the position of men”*
  - The Pharisees were members of a religious party and the Herodians were the supporters of King Herod
  - Usually, the two groups did not see eye to eye or get along (in fact, they hated each other)
  - Here, they came together to attack a common enemy (Jesus)



# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- The Pharisees saw Jesus as a dangerous heretic
- The Herodians saw Him as a contender for the throne
- Both wanted to make of fool of Jesus in front of the people
- Either response would cause Jesus to break the law

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:17** *“Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not”*
  - Father said that they asked Jesus this question because:
    - The Pharisees believed that paying taxes to Caesar was a violation of the Law (**Deuteronomy 17**)
    - The Herodians said that He had better pay the taxes or they would report Him to the Romans
  - Either way, they could trap Him, and if no one was looking, stone Him
  - But, as usual, Jesus steps out of their trap and then springs it on them

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:18-22** *“But Jesus, aware of their malice,...and they left him and went away”*
  - By asking if anyone had a coin, it was obvious that Jesus could not pay the Roman tax without a Roman coin
  - When they brought one to Him, He asked whose image was on it?
  - He then told them to pay this coin to the Romans (This made the Herodians happy)
  - The Pharisees created this trap and were not caught in it

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- In fact, by acknowledging that they were supporting Caesar as their king, they were violating their law that they were accusing Jesus of violating
- This is why He called them hypocrites