

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH
IVc. Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (cont.)
Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 3: mid Morning c. 9:15 A.M.)
Wednesday, 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33
Mt. 21:33-46; Mk. 12:1-12; Lk. 20:9-20

Introduction:

We have been studying each day of the last week in the physical life of The Lord Jesus Christ on Earth. Since it was impossible to adequately expound all of the teachings by The Lord Jesus Christ during one day in one lesson, we postponed expounding the remainder of His Teachings on Wednesday, 12th Nisán, April 1, A.D. 33 until we covered the rest of the days through out the week and considered The Day of Resurrection. Most of His Teachings used parables to illustrate The Truth that He intended to communicate. It was noted that to properly interpret parables requires explanation and observance of specific guidelines before undertaking to accurately understand them. Therefore we shall briefly study the parables to interpret them only by obtaining the particular reference and the prevailing principle of each. Then at a later date we shall study the parables with more involved teaching. We already considered the first session in which He taught the disciples in the early morning watch before dawn on the way to the Temple from before **6:00 to c. 7:15 A.M.**

A. Lessons Taught on the Way to The Temple (Mk. 11:20-26):

1. The Lesson on Faith (Mk. 11:20-26).
2. The Lesson on Prayer (Mk. 11:24-26).
3. The Lesson on Forgiveness (Mk. 11:25,26).

B. His Ministry in The Temple - c. 7:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Mk. 11:27-12:44; Mt. 21:23-23:39; Lk. 21:1-21:4)

After Jesus entered The Temple early in the morning, He was teaching and evangelizing (Lk. 20:1), when the religious leaders (chief priests, scribes, and elders) approached Him c. 8:30 A.M.) and inquired of Him about His authority to do things He was doing in The Temple the day before (He cleansed The Temple of its merchants and merchandise and later compassionately healed the helpless). Jesus challenged them by answering with a question about John the Baptizer. After refusing to answer His question about John the Baptizer, about 9:00 A.M. Jesus told parables and began teaching lessons in eight categories: **Faithful Service**, **Fatal Wrath**, **Financial Responsibility**, **Future Living**, **False Religion**, **Fallible Recognition**, **Fatal Rebuke**, and **Faithful Giving**.

1. The Lesson on Faithful Service (c. 9:00 A.M.) (Mt. 21:23-32).

Religious Leaders of Israel Questioned Jesus' Authority - All claimed to be serving The God but they were hypocritically doing so by strictly adhering to their own brand of religion (Mt. 21:23). Who were they? Pharisees and scribes, Saducees and priests - religious leaders who refused to believe in The Resurrection, and Elders were the religious leaders who challenged Jesus and to whom He directed the parable on Faithful Service to The Father. There were two kinds of disobedience illustrated by the parable: Blatant Resistant Disobedience and Reserved Disobedience, which implied consent to do what was commander but failed to comply.

Now note the two specific guidelines for interpreting this parable.

- a. The Particular Reference is the answer that Jesus gave to the religious leaders, Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, priests, and elders, who claimed to be sons of God The Father, and questioned Jesus'

authority for purging The Temple of the merchants and their merchandise, both of which did not belong there, and prompted him to do the day before. Jesus in turn asked them about the source of John's baptism whether from Heaven or from humans implying their acceptance or denial of the determined will of God The Father by all children who claim to belong to Him by means of absolute, persistent obedience to all His commands or not. If not persistently absolutely obeying they are hypocrites without repentance. They answered very cautiously because they knew they were put into a precarious trap with a serious reaction by the people whichever way they answered. So they decided not to answer. In return Jesus did not answer them.

- b. The Prevailing Principle is that all sinners who repent and persistently obey The Father God's will and commands **shall** pass on before the hypocrites, who do not live up to what they claim is their relationship to The God, enter into The Kingdom of The God. Religious hypocrites shall **not** enter The Kingdom of The God but shall be punished eternally by perishing in The Lake of Fire.

After giving the application to The Parable of Two Children whose Father Asked them to Work in his Vineyard. then c. 9:00 A.M. Jesus presented another parable, The Parable of The Housemaster and the Fruit of His Vineyard, which we considered last time. Please note how Jesus progressed in His teaching. First he dealt with entering the Kingdom by means of complete persistent obedience to The Father God and then the consequences for failure to completely persistently obey Him will result in **Fatal Wrath of Everlasting Destruction**.

2. **The Lessons on Fatal Wrath** (c. 10:00 A.M.) (Mt. 21:33-22:14; Mk. 12:1-12; Lk. 20:9-19).

At this point in time Matthew recorded two parables, while Luke recorded only one. However Luke recorded a similar parable four months earlier in Kislev (early December), A.D. 32. At that time The Lord Jesus told another similar parable concerning Fatal Wrath in the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, who invited Him and others to eat a bread loaf on a Sabbath day on their journey to Jerusalem (a two day journey, about 40-50 miles away from Jerusalem). That parable, recorded only by Luke, concerned a certain human who made a great dinner and invited many (Lk. 14:16-24, please read). This similar parable on Fatal Wrath, recorded by Matthew, was told again by Jesus in The Temple in the morning (c. 10:00 A.M.) on Wednesday. It involves a king who made a Marriage Feast for his son. Only Matthew recorded both of the parables concerning Fatal Wrath. But all three of The Synoptic Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) recorded The Parable of the Householder and the Fruit of his Vineyard which The Lord Jesus told in The Temple. Jesus used both of these parables, which He told in The Temple, to illustrate His **Lesson on Fatal Wrath of Everlasting Destruction** as follows.

- a. The Parable of the Housemaster and the Fruit of his Vineyard (Mt. 21:33-46; Mk. 12:1-12; Lk. 20: 9-19). This was told to the chief priests (Sadducees) and Pharisees c. 10:00 A.M. Failure to render the fruits of the vineyard results in **Fatal Wrath of Everlasting Destruction**.

(1) Read the Parable (Mt. 21:33-46).

(2) The Details of the Parable of the vineyard:

- (A) The housemaster and his preparation for his vineyard to produce fruit included: planting, protecting by a fence, providing a winepress, and building a tower for greater protection and

housing the vineyard keepers, then leasing it for rendering the fruits (usually ½ or more of the harvest (Fred Wight, Manners and Customs in Bible Lands, Chicago: Moody Press, p. 195). Then he traveled abroad (out of the country).

- (B) The vineyard bore fruit in due season.
 - (C) The vineyard keepers: broke the lease; refused to render the agreed upon fruits; instead repeatedly mistreated, stoned, and killed the bondslaves sent to retrieve His portion of the fruits; and finally they murdered the son and only heir and confiscated his inheritance, taking full control of the whole property.
- (3) The response of the chief priests, elders, and Pharisees (Mt. 21:23, 45) to The Lord's question, Utterly destroy them and lease to those who will render the fruits in their seasons. . . . May it never be! (Mt. 21:35; Lk. 20:16b).
- (4) The application of the parable by The Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 21:42-46; Mk. 12:12b):
- (A) The Lord Jesus emphasized their own conclusion after quoting Psalm 118:22,23 and implying that He Himself is The Stone that the ones building (i.e. the vineyard keepers) rejected and He becomes the Head Stone of the Corner of a new building or vineyard; and The Kingdom of The God (to which they claimed to belong) shall be carried off away from you (the nation of religious Jews) and given to a nation producing the fruits and (rendering them to Him) as they indicated to Him (Mt. 21:42,43).
 - (B) They shall be dashed to pieces if That Stone falls upon them or else He shall flail them and scatter them like chaff (Mt. 21:44).
 - (C) And the chief priests and Pharisees ascertained that what He said was about them, they sought to abduct him, but they feared the people and departed (Mt. 21:45,46; Lk. 20:19).
- (5) Interpretation of the Parable:
- (A) The Particular Reference to this parable as was noted by the chief priests and Pharisees is to the nation of Israel and her religious leaders (Mt. 21:43,45).
 - (a) The vineyard was recognized by the Jews as the nation of Israel (Isa. 5:1-7).
 - (b) The vineyard keepers are the religious leaders who killed the prophets (Lk. 11:47-51; 13:34; Mt. 5:12; 23:29-37; Rom. 11:3) and were about to take and kill The Housemaster's Son. They shall be dashed to pieces, utterly flailed, scattered like chaff and utterly destroyed (caused to perish) by The Son when He returns to set up His Kingdom (Mt. 21:41-44; Mk. 12:9. Lk. 20:18).
 - (c) The Kingdom of new vineyard keepers producing the fruits in the new vineyard or nation, which shall render the fruits in their seasons to His Father, The Housemaster are those who shall be redeemed and become members of His Church (Mt. 21:43; 1 Cor. 3:9; 9:7).
 - (d) However, There is Truth to be learned by those belonging to The True Church. We also shall be held accountable for The Truth contained in The New Testament. For instance we must give account for obedience to The Commands of The Lord Jesus Christ's command to make disciples and teach them to fulfill His commands as well and thereby render to Him the fruits of the work of discipleship. Unless and until then, any claim to be His disciple-saints is false, misleading,

and hypocritical.

(B) The Prevailing Principle in this parable is that since The God's Vineyard whether of The Old Testament (Israel) or The New Testament (The Church) has been abundantly provided with all that is needed to produce and render the fruits of it to Him, He expects His vineyard to bear fruit and be rendered to Him and He holds the leaders (O.T.: Priests, Scribes, Rabbis, and elders; N.T. Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, Missionaries, elders, and deacons accountable and as well all disciple-workers accountable. He did so in The Old Testament times and He does so today and He will continue to hold all accountable until The Lord Jesus Christ comes again to do all in His power to provide for His people so that they produce and render the fruit to Him and delight His heart. However there are severe consequences for true or false leaders and for His children who are not productive and do not render the fruits that He expects them to produce and render to Him. Therefore it behooves each one of us to carefully and diligently to search His Word to learn all that He expects His true believers (disciple-saints) to learn and apply to fulfill what He has provided for each of us to appropriate and utilize to accomplish His Building, His Church (1 Cor. 3:9; 9:7) by means of discipleship. Have you been discipled? Are you involved in discipling and training at least one other to disciple others? what kind of answer will you give and fruit will you show to The Godhead at The Judgment for your work as His workman?

Conclusion:

Today we continued our study of the third day of **The Last Week in The Life of The Lord Jesus Christ on Earth**, He and His disciples entered The Temple early in the morning (c. 7:30 A.M.). Then in early mid-morning (c. 8:00 A.M., Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33, He began His Lesson on Fatal Wrath by telling The Parable of the Housemaster and the Fruit of his Vineyard, in which the vineyard keepers refused to render the fruits gleaned from the vineyard suffered Fatal Wrath.

It was learned that this parable likened the nation of Israel and their religious leaders to The God's vineyard in The Old Testament, which miserably failed to produce the fruit thereof. But instead they rejected their vineyard keepers (their prophets) by grabbing and degrading some, and killing others. Then they were about to take The Housemaster's Son

Out those who do respond The Father will establish a new nation (Mt. 21:43; 1 Pet. 2:9), The Church composed of Regenerated Jews and Gentiles which will be another vineyard that will produce and render the fruits to Him (1 Cor. 3:9; 9:7). That first vineyard will be destroyed by Him and carried off away from Israel and given to that new nation. Those who respond to the invitation, The Gospel, and willingly wear the wedding garment, which The Father, The King of Kings and Lord of Lords provides, will spend Eternity with His Son. However the prevailing principle in this lesson is that The God expects His vineyard to bear fruit and be rendered to Him and He holds the leaders accountable and workers accountable for success or for failure to bear and render fruit unto Him.

Application:

What will you and I do beginning **today** to take advantage of His abundant provisions and preparations to produce and render to Him the fruit The God is expecting from you and from me? Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: **Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching: Parable of The Wedding Feast Mt. 22:1-14**