

Sunday Morning Message

April 8, 2020

The Parable of the Vineyard

Text – Luke 20:1 - 18

Introduction

Last week we examined the Triumphal Entry from Luke nineteen. This week, we will move into chapter twenty, and examine one of the parables that Jesus taught in the week days in-between His Entry into Jerusalem and His crucifixion.

Luke 19:47 and 48 state:

"And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him." (Luke 19:47-48)

Jesus was no longer out in the villages between Galilee and Judaea. He is right in the belly of the beast. He is in Jerusalem, which is the home turf of His enemies, the religious leadership: the Scribes, Sadducees and Pharisees. He is actually on the grounds of the Temple, preaching and teaching the gospel. The Pharisees and the Sadducees want Him gone for good. They are following Him around, trying to catch Him saying something that could convince the people to turn against Him, and to get the Romans to crucify Him.

Right now, however, He is the center of attention, and the people are thronging Him, listening to His every word.

I. **His Explanation to Israel Regarding His Authority (vs. 1 – 8; compare Matthew 21:23 - 27; and Mark 11:27 - 33)**

The Pharisees had challenged Jesus authority on a number of occasions, and He never denied where His authority came from:

"And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world." (John 8:23)

Read John 8:42 – 59

On another occasion they attributed His power to the Devil:

"But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then

his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you." (Matthew 12:24-28)

Jesus answers their question with another question. They call that the Socratic Method of learning. He asks them about John. Was John's authority from God? If it was, why didn't you listen to Him? The Pharisees refuse to answer, and in so doing, they acknowledge that they really are not interested in knowing. Even if they acknowledged that Jesus power was from God, they would still not submit to Him.

The problem with these religious leaders was that they could care less about God; they only cared about their religious system.

If they truly loved God, they would have heeded John; and they would also have believed the Lord Jesus.

Note – according to Mathew's Gospel, there is another parable taught by the Lord Jesus at this point – *The Parable of the Two Sons* – Matthew 21:28 - 32

II. His Example about Israel from Agriculture (vs. 9 – 16; compare Matthew 21:33 - 46; and Mark 12:1 - 12)

The Vineyard is Israel – Isaiah 5:1 – 7

Players in this parable

The Householder is God

Notice – He planted (seed – the Word of God)

He hedged – protected them

He built a winepress – for the fruit

He built a tower – for vision

They had everything that they needed – God gave them everything.

The Husbandmen – represent the leaders of Israel

The servants – represent the prophets (see Matthew 23:29 – 37; 2 Chronicles 24:17 - 22)

The Son – represents Jesus

Conclusion (vs. 17 – 18)

Christ is the Rock:

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:4)

Christ is the stone that will crush all those who do not fall upon Him.

He is the foundation according to 1 Corinthians 3:11.

He is the chief cornerstone according to Ephesians 2:20.

"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed." (1 Peter 2:6-8)

He is the stone "cut out without hands" from Daniel 2:

"Thou 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. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; 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." (Daniel 2:34-35)

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." (Daniel 2:44-45)

I would suggest that you fall upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, with a broken heart and a broken spirit, and He will save you; because if you don't, someday He will crush you.