

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
Days of Challenge 2: The Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen

Last time...the morning of the 3rd day of the Final Week continued

In the Temple, while Jesus taught the people, the chief priests and scribes and elders confronted Him, demanding to know

1. By what authority do You do these things?
2. Who gave You this authority?

Jesus countered with His own question about the baptism of John the Baptist,

whose message and innovation (baptism) the religious leaders rejected

In so doing, Jesus turned the tables on these wicked men

Rather than getting Jesus to condemn Himself with His own words,

the chief priests, scribes, and elders condemned themselves with their own words

This time...the morning of the 3rd day of the Final Week continues...

same conversation/confrontation/challenge for leadership...

as Jesus continues to respond to the challenge of His authority by the chief priests, scribes, and elders

We will be in Matt 21, referencing the parallel accounts in Mark 12 and Luke 20

Matt 21:33-46

v33a Hear another parable:

The previous parable (only in Matt, not in Mark or Luke) was about
a man with 2 sons...v28-32

The parable was aimed at the wicked, self-righteous leaders

Man to Son #1: Go work today in my vineyard

Son #1 to father: No (defiant independence)

Then, convicted, he repented and went to work

Man to Son #2: Go work today in my vineyard

Son #2 to father: Sure thing Abba!

A wicked lie because he has no intention of working

Which son did the will of (obeyed) his father?

The self-righteous leaders answered correctly –
the son who did vs the son who said

Giving the correct answer to Jesus' parable, they condemned themselves
and justified repentant sinners with their own words

Now, Jesus continues with another parable

- linked/related to the parable of the 2 sons
- also directed at the wicked, self-righteous leaders
- Personal and prophetic

The Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen

v33b-39

v33b householder...vineyard...husbandmen:

Householder

The Owner, the Authority, the Lord
God the Father

planted a vineyard

Israel

Ps 80:8-9

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. Thou preparedst *room* before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land

Is 5:1-7

followed by 6 + 1 “Woe”s (Is 5:8 – 6:5)

Jer 2:21

Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

Note: We cannot understand NT without OT

Those who study only NT cannot rightly divide the Word of Truth

hedged it

gathered stones and built a wall/barrier to protect the vineyard from wild animals

digged a winepress

where the fruit of the vine is crushed to produce

- wine/juice
- the blood of the grape
- the “joy of the Lord”

built a tower

for faithful watchmen to keep an eye out for invaders, thieves

Note: planted, hedged, digged, built: great expense and great attention and effort by the Householder, after counting the cost (Luke 14:28-30)

Note: cost = Blood

let it out

leased it to tenants

Lev 25:23 The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land *is* Mine; for ye *are* strangers and sojourners with Me

husbandmen

stewards/workers who were to diligently cultivate the vine so that
it bears fruit (the only reason to have a vineyard)

Levites and priests

went into a far country

heaven

Is 57:15 the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name
is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*

Luke 20:9...for a long time

From the Law to Jesus was about 1500 years

From Joshua to Jesus was about 1450 years

v34-36 time of the fruit drew near:

Mark 12:2 and Luke 20:10 say “the season”...harvest time approaches

The fruit

- borne by a well-cultivated and well-tended vineyard
- the reason to invest the time, effort, and resources into a vineyard in the first place; therefore, what the Householder expects
- the Householder’s due...the husbandmen are to give Him His due, the yield of the vineyard
- in context of teaching of the fruitless fig tree: faith (Heb 11:6)

he sent his servants:

The Householder sent to the husbandmen/tenants in His land His servants...
the prophets...

17x in OT: My servants the prophets

The reception of the householder’s many servants by the husbandmen:

- beaten
- killed
- stoned
- shamefully treated (Mark 12:4, Luke 20:11)
- sent away empty (Mark 12:3, Luke 20:10-11)
- Heb 11:36-40 (“Faith Chapter”)

In the hearts of the husbandmen we discern

- sustained and growing defiance
- wicked rebellion

In the heart of the Householder we discern

- longsuffering
- mercy (Micah 7:18)
- slow to anger

In the ministries of the servants we discern

- few converts (absence of fruit in the vineyard, sent away empty)
- great dishonor (to dishonor the servant is to dishonor the Householder)
- great faithfulness, in the face of death (others') and even unto death

v37 But last of all...his son:

So great is the Householder's mercy that he lastly...

as the last "servant"/emissary/sent one...sent his son

Mark 12:6 says, "one son"

Luke 20:13 says, "beloved son"

The Householder sent his only beloved son as His last messenger/"servant" to the defiant and rebellious husbandmen/tenants of his land
"They will reverence/regard/respect my son."

The Only Beloved Son (obviously)

Jesus Christ...Jesus of Nazareth speaking directly to
the wicked husbandmen

The Only Begotten of the Father

The Son of God

The Prophet spoken of by Moses

Deut 18:18-19 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require *it* of him

So...to answer the challenge of the chief priest and scribes and elders regarding

1. By what authority do you do these things?

A: The Only Begotten Son of God

2. Who gave you this authority?

A: God the Father

v38 saw the son...the heir...kill him...seize on his inheritance:

The defiance of the husbandmen becomes absolutely brazen/shameless

They know the son...they recognize him

They know he is the heir of the vineyard

They take evil counsel among themselves to kill the son and to
seize/steal his inheritance

Deut 32:9 For the LORD'S portion *is* his people; Jacob *is* the lot of his
inheritance

Mark 12:7 says, "The inheritance shall be ours."

i.e. keep the vineyard (Israel) for ourselves

Essentially, "We will not have that man to rule over us."

Luke 19:12-14...several days ago, on the way from Jericho to Jerusalem
for this Passover, the parable of the nobleman who went into a far
country to receive a kingdom for himself and to return

Which means...

1. the wicked leaders know Who Jesus is (by His works and words)
but they reject Him as such
2. Jesus knows of their evil plot to kill Him and just exposed it to all the
people who were witnessing this confrontation in the Temple

To His disciples, He has foretold of this 4x

e.g. Matt 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his
disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and
suffer many things of the elders and chief priests
and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the
third day

and as recently as about 1 week ago (Luke 18:31-34)

And now the parable turns Personal and prophetic, speaking of events that will
come to pass by the end of this Final Week

v39 caught...cast...slew:

The wicked husbandman acted on their evil plan, violently seizing and murdering
the only son/beloved heir

Which means...Jesus is telling the chief priests and scribes and elders that

- a. they will not regard/respect Him but will dishonor Him...which is to
dishonor the Father Who sent Him (John 5:23)
- b. they will be "successful" in their evil plot...or so they will think for
3 days and 3 nights until He rises from the dead!
- c. He is not seeking to "save Himself" (but the lost, Luke 19:10)

End of parable; now questions and teaching by Jesus

v40-41 lord of the vineyard...they say...miserably destroy:

Jesus asks the obvious question: What will the lord of the vineyard
(Householder, His Father) do to the wicked husbandmen (them)?

Historical reference for the Jewish leaders (about 620 years in their past):

2 Chron 36:16-17 But 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. Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave *them* all into his hand.

“times of the Gentiles” when Israel is cruelly oppressed and lorded over by Gentile kings – Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans

The Pharisees etc, who challenged Jesus and have been challenged by Jesus,
answer with the obvious answer: all that remains is the Householder’s

- terrible, swift, righteous justice
- wrathful vengeance...no more mercy

The lord of the vineyard will

- grievously, severely destroy those wicked husbandmen
- lease his vineyard to others, to faithful husbandmen

The chief priests and scribes and elders challenged Jesus’ authority
But to Jesus’ counter challenges, they have responded:

1. the baptism of John: “We cannot (will not) tell”
2. the man with 2 sons: “The 1st son”, condemning themselves as 2nd son
The most learned scholars in Israel could not continue to respond to Jesus with “we don’t know” with all the eyes of the people peering at them.
Nor could they “hold their peace” as they were so wont to do when Jesus asked them incriminating questions to expose their hearts.
3. the wicked husbandmen: “Miserably destroy those wicked men”, again condemning themselves while all the people looked on, even while they knew they were Jesus’ “target” with the parable, but had no way of escape and were forced to utter the obvious answer

In Mark's and in Luke's account, it reads like Jesus answers His own question
Additionally in Luke 20:16, "And when they heard it, they said, God forbid"

A reaction of shock and horror to the wrath of the Householder...
His destruction of the wicked husbandmen and
the giving of the vineyard to others

v42 Did ye never read in the Scriptures:

Luke 20:17 starts, "And He beheld them,"

Jesus is looking with piercing eyes into the very souls of the wicked

And He challenges them on their knowledge of the Scriptures, the Word of God...
Ps 118:22-23

They had challenged Him during His Triumphal Entry regarding the people
singing Ps 118:25-26 (v9)

And He shut them down with rightly divided Scripture

Now, He...the King, the Son (v37), and the Heir (v38)...challenges them on
two verses prior to those
(Can you hear the Triumphal Entry people gasping in amazement?)

The Word of God foretold the Jews that the builders, the religious leaders
attempting to build the kingdom of God, will reject God's Messiah...
The Stone of the corner, the Cornerstone

The key to the structure of any building, whereby all the stones fit
together

Language they should understand

2 Sam 22:2-3 The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield,
and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my
refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence

Is 28:16 Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone,
a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation

Ps 127:1a Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that
build it

Jesus again answers the 2 "challenging" questions of the self-righteous leaders
regarding His authority and who gave it to Him!

v43 Therefore...kingdom...taken from you...given to a nation:
 A verse not in either Mark or Luke

Therefore...because v42 is true
say I unto you...thus saith the Lord
The Kingdom of God shall be taken away from you...wicked husbandmen
given to a nation...a people
bringing forth fruit...His due – faith

Who is that nation/people?

1 Peter 2:3-10 (quoting Is 8:14) Church = Jew + Gentile

John 15:1-8

John 17:20-23

Gal 5:22-23 the fruit of the Spirit (from the True Vine) is love,
joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,
faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is
no law

v44 fall on...broken...it shall fall...powder:
 A verse not in Mark 12

A choice must be made regarding the King/Son/Heir/Stone

- fall on Him and be broken...to humble oneself before God
(James 4:6-10) to be reconciled unto Him;
"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."
- Him fall on and be ground to powder...to proudly defy and rebel
against the longsuffering, merciful God and perish in His
terrible, swift, and righteous justice

A choice must be made...as by 2 lights at sea on a collision course:

Boat: "Turn 10 degrees south"

other light: "No, you must turn 10 degrees north"

Boat: (angry) "I am a captain; turn 10 degrees south"

other light: (calm) "I am a seaman 1st class. Turn 10 degrees north"

Boat: (furious) "I am a battleship! Turn 10 degrees south!"

other light: (calm) "I am a lighthouse. Turn 10 degrees north"

The Word of God is like that lighthouse:

- you can't steer it
- you can't change it
- it is unmovable
- you either crash on it and perish because you do not believe
or you believe and let it guide you unto life eternal

v45-46 they perceived...sought to lay hands on:

The chief priests, scribes, Pharisees, and elders rightly perceived that they were Jesus' target for

- The Parable of Two Sons
- The Parable of the Wicked Husbandman

But they were not humbled, they did not repent

Their hard hearts we made harder by the Word of God

They are like the furious captain of a battleship defying the calm and reasoned voice of a humble servant in a lighthouse built to guide them to safety

Left unchecked, the infuriated and humiliated and wicked leaders would have fulfilled v39 right then!

But they were checked by

- their fear of the people (no fear of Jesus)
- The Sovereign God of Israel – His Plan, His timing

They left Jesus...and went their way (Mark 12:12)

After re-gathering themselves, they will be back

They are not done with Jesus

Jesus is not done with them

This Personal and prophetic parable brings to light prophetic passages (OT) that will be fulfilled in a matter of days...

- the unbelief, rebellion, and disobedience of the nation's leaders and those who followed them
- the death of the Messiah...the Only Son of God, the Beloved Heir of God, the Chief Cornerstone

Now the choice is ours

We have the benefit of 20/20 vision of fulfilled Scripture...

But we are not eyewitnesses, we have not seen Jesus Christ

So, as is always the case, it is a matter of faith

it = our eternity

Do you believe...submitting to the Light and being guided to eternal safety?

- an unbeliever, yielding for eternal life?
- a believer, yielding day-by-day, circumstance-by circumstance to bear more fruit?

Do you not believe...

- an unbeliever, defying the Light in blind pride and, as lord of your own life, dying?
- a believer, walking by the flesh vs by the Spirit and being pruned?

As is repeatedly clear:

- Jesus is the Lord of all, the Supreme Authority
- Jesus expects His people to
 - know the Word of God
 - submit to, be governed by the Word of God

Yet how many people proclaim themselves to be believers but

- are Scripturally illiterate?
- continue to live their lives on their terms, not guided by the Light?