

MATTHEW 21 vs 23

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²³ And when He entered the temple,

the chief priests and the elders of the people / after Jesus' seismic entrance escorted by a raucous multitude flanking Him in front and behind, and with 100s and perhaps 1000s of little children singing joyous songs of praise to God... as they entered Jerusalem the day before. And Jesus returned to the Temple where He often taught, He was not fearful, He was not hiding; NOW come the Sanhedrin... the august religious experts; the inquisitors. All the somebodies: none of the nobodies!



they came to Him as He was teaching, and said,

By what authority do you do these things? and who gave you this authority?

²⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them / knowing what occurred before; knowing the hierarchy of the temple wasn't singing along; yet knowing one of their own, **Nicodemus already answered that question:** we know you are a teacher sent from God, for no one could do these miracles except God be with him -- **John 3**; sizing up the situation, Jesus said to them,

I will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me,

I also will tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁵ The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? / was it truly divine, or merely manmade? After all the Pharisees had walked 160 miles... in their white robes to investigate; what did they conclude? One of the two it must be – Matthew Henry;

And they reasoned among themselves, saying / the religious inquisitors caucused comparing notes, **If we say, From heaven; He will say to us, then why did you not believe him?**

²⁶ But if we say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

²⁷ And they answered Jesus and said, We cannot tell / they sought to ensnare him, so they answered deceitfully.

And Jesus said to them, Nor do I tell you by what authority I do these things / Jesus knew His time was near, but that day was not this day; Jesus... while teaching all those who gathered about Him to be: wise as serpents, innocent as doves... now sized up the situation, to catch the wise in their own craftiness -- **1Cor.3**

Jesus continues with 3 parables. He knows their old game,

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and in 3 strikes they will be out!

PARABLE 1: / what is a parable? It's a familiar, earthy lesson containing a heavenly truth

²⁸ **But what do you think?** / right or wrong! What do you suppose...

A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in the vineyard.

²⁹ **He answered and said, I will not!** yet afterward, reconsidered and went / he had a metanoia moment and changed his mind.

³⁰ **And he came to the other, and said the same. And he answered and said, I will go, sir:** yet he did **not** go.

³¹ **Which of these two did the will of his father?**

They say, The first.

Jesus said to them, Amen! / certainly; **I say to you, the publicans and the harlots they will enter the kingdom of God before you** / Matthew tells us, the tax collectors and whores; the IRS agents and prostitutes, those of the worst occupations of the world had a metanoia moment; they listened to Jesus, and were changing their minds.

³² **For John came to you in the way of rightness, and you did not believe him: but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him** / isn't it interesting that Matthew, once a tax collector... a man studied in precision and great detail... is the one who recounts this story?

and you, even after seeing this, did not believe him / you did not change your mind...

STRIKE ONE! John is affirmed **as the forerunner of the Messiah**... sent by God.

PARABLE 2: Jesus tells about God's great faithfulness; and man's incredible foolishness; and the extreme extents God will go to maintain contact with the stubborn, who would embezzle what was lent to them...

³³ **Hear another parable: There was an owner, who planted a vineyard, and put a hedge around it / they all knew this vineyard** – **Isaiah: 5**, and dug a winepress in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to caretakers, and went to a far country / the owner properly developed his vineyard and He rented it to gardeners, farmers, and all sorts of laborers; and this fine owner went away;



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and next we know how well they kept the rental property.

34 And when the harvest of fruit drew near he sent his servants to the caretakers, that they might receive its fruits / well that makes good sense!

35 And the caretakers took his servants and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

36 And again, he sent other servants many more than at first, and they did to them the same / the owner, probably not wanting to hastily judge incorrect; and yet asking: what's wrong with those renters?

37 Last of all, he sent his son to them saying, They will respect my son / wasn't He surprised.

38 But when the caretakers saw the son, they conspired among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize his inheritance / some might work that way, but not God.

39 And they caught him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him / they suddenly murdered him.

40 So, when the lord of the vineyard comes / when the rightful owner and boss of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those caretakers? / and Jesus knew He wasn't adding to His friend's list.

41 They say to him / who spoke up? Some Pharisees? I doubt it. Zealots in the massive crowd? Maybe some harlots and tax collectors got so excited... that they blurted out the answer:

He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will rent out his vineyard to other caretakers, who will gladly give him its fruit at the harvest / and did the multitude rejoice; whistle and holler? The crowds probably went wild!

And Matthew tells us looking across the crowd... all the way to the religious clowns,

42 Jesus said to them, Did you never read in the scriptures?

The stone that the builders rejected, the same became the chief cornerstone / Jesus the Christ, the Messiah of God: our Solid Rock, the one despised and rejected by men, but not by God; Our Solid Rock became the pivotal foundation piece; Daniel the blessed prophet, greatly loved by heaven told them that after the roman government, smashing and destroying until the whole world is broken in the last days, would come a STONE the ROCK of Ages, sent from heaven to smash the final global beast:

this is the Lord's doing / it makes you want to shout **Hallelujah!**



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and it is marvelous in our eyes -- Psalm 118. And did the crowds start joyously singing again that old familiar song... even drowning out the hypocritical clerics?

When the Spanish Armada was massively destroyed... having been prepared by Rome to wipe out the protestants of England, this is the same verse Elizabeth I, of England... attributed to that colossal calamity.

This is the familiar Psalm 118 – a tradition rehearsed and practiced for 1000 years: these are the words, Jesus heard sung by the million visitors on **the Day of Passover** sung at the ninth hour, when Jesus said, **It is finished, and He died on the cross.**

The stone that the builders rejected, the same became the chief cornerstone this is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes

And next, Matthew tells us, Jesus the Messiah, sent by God addresses the deceitful religious leaders

43 So, I say to you, The kingdom of God will be taken from you,

and given to a nation bringing forth its fruits.

44 Whoever falls on this STONE will be broken: but on whomever it falls, it will grind that one to powder / and that's a good thing; it's not an empty threat.

To Nicodemus, Jesus said, You must be born again. Heaven will not be populated with earth's trailer trash; but you should see what the Lord can do with a little dirt and dust in the hands of our great Creator.

STRIKE TWO! This parable affirmed... **Messiah had come!**

45 But when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He spoke of them / being a little obtuse and flimflam, they weren't sure.

46 But when they sought to lay hands on Him,

they feared the multitude, because they considered Him a prophet / the pompous priestly jackasses wanted to seize Him; they would have stoned Him right then and there.

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[O Come Let Us Adore Him](#)

We Have Cause To Be Uneasy -- CSLewisDoodle