

Matthew Series

Lesson #128

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Dean Bible Ministries

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MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

Arrogance of Legalism Blinds the Soul

Matthew 21:33–43

Matt. 21:23, “Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?’ ”

Matt. 21:32, “For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent [regret] and believe him.”

**μεταμέλομαι *metamelomai*
aor pass part masc sing
nom
to be sorry, regret,
remorse, change one’s
mind. Usually focuses on
the emotional element.**

**πιστεύω
pisteuō
aor act indic 2
plur
to believe, trust**

Matt. 21:33, “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.”

Isa. 5:1, “Now let me sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill.

Isa. 5:2, “He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes.”

Matt. 21:33, “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.”

**ἄλλος *allos*
acc fem sing
(demonst) other,
another, otherwise**

landowner

a vineyard

a contract

wall/fence

a winepress

a tower

tenant farmers/vinedressers

landowner: οἰκοδεσπότης *oikodespotēs*, the master of a house; emphasizes his authority over the land. The landowner is God the Father, the Creator God ruling over history.

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landowner: οἰκοδεσπότης *oikodespotēs*, the master of a house; emphasizes his authority over the land.

a vineyard: represents the kingdom offered to Israel and rejected by the religious leaders.

a contract: the Mosaic covenant.

wall/fence

a winepress

a tower

Each of these together show the attention and care of the landowner to provide for the security and productivity of the vineyard.

wall/fence

a winepress

a tower

tenant farmers are the religious leaders of that generation. Thus it is the religious leaders who lose access to the kingdom; not Israel forever and ever.

tenant farmers/vinedressers

Matt. 21:43, “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.”

Definitions

“the Church completely and permanently replaced ethnic Israel in the working out of God’s plan and as recipient of Old Testament promises to Israel.”

~Ronald Diprose, *Israel and the Church*

Definitions

1. The nation Israel has somehow completed or forfeited its status as the people of God and will never again possess a unique role or function apart from the Church.
2. The Church is now the true Israel that has permanently replaced or superseded national Israel as the people of God.

“the Church is the new and/or true Israel that has forever superseded the nation Israel as the people of God.”

~Michael Vlach, *Has the Church Replaced Israel*

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Matt. 21:19, “And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, ‘Let no fruit grow on you ever again.’ Immediately the fig tree withered away.”

The problem: legalism.

- 1. Legalism is basically man seeking God's approval for his works of "righteousness."**
- 2. Legalism is the product of human arrogance.**
- 3. All arrogance blinds us to the truth.**
- 4. And a commitment to arrogance leads to hostility toward God.**

Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

Religious legalism is a form of idolatry, the idolatry of personal morality and religious activity.

Rom. 11:1, “I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.”

Matt. 21:34, “Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.

Matt. 21:35, “And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

Matt. 21:36, “Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.”

Rom. 11:3, “ ‘LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life’?”

Rom. 11:4, “But what does the divine response say to him? ‘I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.’”

Rom. 11:5, “Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”

Rom. 11:11, “I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

Rom. 11:12, “Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!”

Rom. 11:25, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Rom. 11:26, “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: *‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;’* ”

Rom. 11:27, “*For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.*”

Rom. 11:28, “Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.

Rom. 11:29, “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

Matt. 21:37, “Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’”

Matt. 21:38, “But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’”

Matt. 21:39, “So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.”

Matt. 21:40, “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

Matt. 21:41, “They said to Him, ‘He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.’ ”

Matt. 21:42, “Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’S doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes”?*’ ”

Acts 4:10, “let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

Acts 4:11, “This is the ‘*stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.*’ ”

Rom. 9:30, “What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;

Rom. 9:31, “but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.

Rom. 9:32, “Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.

Rom. 9:33, “As it is written: *‘Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ ”*

Isa. 28:16, “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: *‘Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.’ ”*

Rom. 10:3, “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Matt. 21:43, “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you (plural—the religious leaders/tenant farmers) and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.”

ἔθνος *ethnos*

dat neut sing

nation, people, Gentiles (if plural)

BDAG: In Matt. 21:43 ἔ. (not gentiles) in contrast to the leaders described vv. 23; 45.0

Matt. 21:44, “And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

- 1. Falls on the stone: those who reject Jesus Messiah will be judged (be broken).**
- 2. Those on whom the stone falls, who are judged by Jesus (John 5:27) will be crushed or scattered (*likmao*).**

Matt. 21:45, “Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them.

Matt. 21:46, “But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they [the crowd] took Him for a prophet.”