

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

## The Wedding is Ready

Matthew 21:23-22:14

Previously:

- **The talk about what's coming** - death AND resurrection (always missing it)
- **The kingdom coming, triumphal entry:** earthly vs heavenly Messiah
- **A House of Prayer:** cleansing led to praise and healing

Today

- Sons, Workers, and a Wedding

Last wedding you went to?

Big season of weddings in 20s and early 30s, then big season of baby showers

Our wedding, Bob running out for more soda

## [Pray]

## 21:23-27

**Jesus goes back to the temple He just cleansed**

**The religious leaders are still there with a bone to pick**

*They knew he had the authority - if anyone else did that they'd be strung up already*

**His authority questioned:**

leading into the parables and the cross - which will prove it all

We all know this saying, "actions speak louder than words"

**A question with a question - he knew they weren't really seeking.**

**He would beat them at their own game (in a sense)**

**Psalm 18:26** - With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

**This is 4D Chess.**

**They tried to flip it on him to make him prove it - but the onus was on them to prove him wrong.**

*Burden of guilt is on the accuser*

## **The option: fear people or fear God**

**Matthew 10:27-28** "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

## **The truth had the Pharisees trapped**

- They didn't want to lose respect among the people because the people also respected John
- They couldn't say it was God because then they'd prove Jesus' authority because John pointed to Jesus.

## **Jesus' great response**

if you're going to play the word game, then I won't answer you  
God won't play your games. If you come to him honestly, he'll answer you honestly, if you come trying to justify yourself, he'll leave you to your own devices.

*They love their word games, they're basically lawyers*

*22:15 try to entangle Him in HIS talk*

## **The silence of God**

### **Sometimes God won't answer our questions**

- We're asking to try to prove Him wrong (our heart/attitude is wrong)
- He's already told us and we just need to trust - good to journal, highlight, write down
- Need to know basis and we don't need to know - sometimes the Bible is silent and we need to trust that God hasn't told us for a reason - too much to handle?
- There's sin in our lives that needs to be dealt with - the relationship needs mending

**The Pharisees couldn't see or hear. They were too full of themselves and their own man-made authority.**

## **:28-32**

### **What do you think?**

The logic of God. God's Word makes sense. His commands. His requirements. And he wants us to think for ourselves, Biblically (remember, be a Berean!)

*Religion makes no sense. It is confusing! Gets us twisted in our thinking and perspectives.*

**John 8:31-32** - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

### **Parable - earthly story with heavenly meaning**

Sometimes it's easier to make sense of things we don't understand by comparing them to things we do

#### **Two sons**

**One says he'll be obedient, but isn't**

**One says no way - but afterward regretted it and obeyed**

The heart after God will regret not doing what God says and goes the right way

**Following God begins in the heart**

*Logic and thinking and knowing right and wrong will only get you so far, you have to decide you want to do the right*

### **The point? Who did the will of the Father**

Who's doing what their dad wants? The one who says it or the one who does it?

#### **Remember, speaking to the religious guys.**

The ones in charge.

The ones who spent their life in outward observance of the law

#### **The reality**

Tax collectors (traitors, extortioners) and harlots were the ones who did the will of God

**Why? Because they regretted it!**

Their sin had the best of them. They realized they weren't any good. (Talking to man)

**What was the will of God? Repent and know God in Jesus!****Jesus was trying to reach even the Pharisees!**

John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him

Outwardly (and inwardly) wicked people repented

But when YOU saw it you did not relent/repent/regret!

When we hear God's word and we're going the wrong way - it should produce in us regret and repentance! Why? Because God has something better for us in every way imaginable.

*God can restore what the locust has eaten*

**:33-41**

**He doesn't stop there, he shares several more parables**

**How gracious is God! He gives us so many opportunities**

**This is a legit vineyard! Hedge, winepress, tower to watch**

**Big investment**

**Vintage time** - it's the harvest! The vineyard worked. It was time to reap.

Grapes, the produce wine, Wealth from them. The functioning property and business.

**The main characters**

- Landowner - guy in charge, he owns the land and everything on it
- Vinedressers - guys hired to run the business
- Servants - those close to the master, going on his behalf
- The son

*DG commentary mentions that Israel is often described as a vineyard in the OT*

Interesting as he's trying to get the Pharisees' attention here

**Beat one, killed one, stoned another (probably died)**

Look at what Israel did to the prophets over the years

Didn't usually end well, aside for a few

### **They will respect my son**

Basically sending himself at that point. Maybe they don't like the messengers, but they will respect my own flesh and blood and his authority

*Authority of prophets and authority of Jesus*

### **But they didn't.**

Instead, they saw it as an opportunity to take all that was coming to the son - the land, the vineyard, & the produce of it

### **Jesus asks what will the owner do?**

**Pharisees get this easily** - of course he's going to completely destroy them miserably to those who will actually do the work

### **Miserably destroy (apollymi)**

Miserable, ill, revile

Abolish, ruin, render useless, kill, give over to hell

The landowner's judgment is swift and severe and complete  
It's his right and it's just

### **Especially when his son is harmed**

*The flood - it didn't please God, it grieved him when he saw men, and he did what he did because he had to*

### **And others, who will be faithful in what they do, be put in charge**

Remember, these first guys got hired and we can assume when they got hired said they'd care for the field, raise the grapes, make the wine, and deliver the goods - but they didn't

**:42-46**

**Have you never read in the Scriptures?**

*I love it, again Jesus brings up simple reading and understanding of the Bible.  
It's not that hard guys! You are experts in the law and you don't know what the Bible  
actually says?*

**It is marvellous in our eyes**

**Isn't it wonderful seeing what God does, even in spite of us?**

*[Ps 118:22-23]*

This was all the Lord's doing  
It was God's plan from the very beginning

**The church does not REPLACE Israel, otherwise God is not a promise keeper**

But, for a season, God switches from using Israel to reach the world  
to using the church

**But his plan for Israel and the Jewish people is not over**

*It's hard having something you've been all about be taken from you  
And given to someone else*

**This is all in an attempt to reach them**

**Romans 10:19-21** - But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by [those who are] not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

**They perceived he was speaking of them -**  
it got through! They weren't so thick afterall?

But their heart? It didn't repent. They wanted to kill him.  
But again, they didn't want to go against the crowd and lose more power!

**When God does speak, our reaction reveals our heart**

Do we regret and seek to change? Or do we press on in defiance and try to destroy God's word?

**22:1-6**

## **King and an arranged marriage**

*I don't necessarily think an arranged marriage is bad as a believer  
But not from your earthly parents, but your heavenly father!  
Who knows better than He?*

Marriage united kingdoms - giving away princesses to other nations, kinda hard to go to war against your own

**Servants sent out, but those on the king's guest list didn't want to come!**  
**Rejection of the King, not just the wedding**  
**You shouldn't be saying no for a host of reasons, diplomatic at the least**

**Sends out more servants, guys, come! It's going to be lit!**

Didn't come on just the mention of it, ok, maybe I can convince them to come with their bellies

*What you catch them with you have to keep them with*

**They made light of it and went to work!**

**Who wants to go to work instead of a huge party of a king?**

Would you rather go to work tomorrow or go to a huge state dinner, fly first class, all expenses paid?

*Wedding season can get monotonous after a while, can't even get a BB&B gift card anymore*

A total lack of respect for the king, for his son, for his kingdom  
And even more so - rebellion against the king, killing his servants

*"An attack on the king's servant is an attack on the King" - Braveheart*

**King hears, sends his army, kills all the murderers and burns up their city**

**Woah, are we still talking about a wedding here?**

**Remember, this is God's Son telling us what God's Kingdom is like**

*I think we underestimate the severity and reality of what's spiritually at stake in life*

*And what's really going on behind the scenes*

## **22:7-14**

### **Wedding is ready**

(harvest was ready earlier, too)

Dinner's on the table, band is ready to play, groom is ready to take his bride

**Those invited were not worthy** (you don't say!)

Not having value, having weight, befitting, merit

**Although they were first on the list, invited several times, the king knew who they were,**

**their response revealed their worthiness for such an honor**

**They won't come? OK, we'll find those who will come.**

Who's in the highways? Travellers, truck drivers, people moving, people going to work, thieves

*Not quite the sort you'd want at the wedding feast*

*Remember the tax collectors and harlots?*

**Invite as many as you find - everyone. There's no limit to the guest count.**

Gathered all whom they found - bad and good.

**This king is going to have a wedding for his son and who he wants to come are those who are willing.**

**It doesn't matter who they are or what they've done - they're invited.**  
**If they're willing, they're welcome.**

**Someone not dressed appropriately**

King calls him friend...he goes speechless

Ever feel out of place? Hoping no one notices the stain on your shirt?

**He's got nothing to say for himself. He's there, but he didn't bother to get changed.**

**Cast him into outer darkness weeping and gnashing of teeth**

*Woah, are we still talking about a wedding here?*

**Many are called, few are chosen**

God was calling the Israelites, they flat out rejected (and through them all the gentiles)  
But the Pharisees prevented even the Israelites from knowing God, let alone the  
Gentiles

So now, God shifted his focus to anyone and everyone  
And many came - of all walks of life, of all moral success or failure

**But, there was still a responsibility - to wear the right attire**

Our salvation is not based on works, but if we are saved, we will change

**God's word should lead us to regret our ways**

**Regret what we look like - on the inside and out**

**And seek Him to wash us and change us**

**God is calling EVERYONE to a wedding**

**To rejoice, to celebrate, to even be His bride**

**But we can't go if we choose not to**

**And we can't stay if we don't let him change our heart**

**You are invited? Will you choose to go?**