

## Matthew 22-23 - Tuesday Part 2

### Matthew 22 – Jesus Silenced the Unbelieving

#### 22:1-14 – The Gospel is Proclaimed Through the Church to All People

Jesus is using this parable to point to the massive shift in how He will reveal Himself to the world.

The ministry of the gospel was going to the Gentiles. The Israelites are no longer the instrument of God to reveal Himself to the world...it is the church. This shift is a major turning point in the story of redemptive history. For centuries the nation of Israel had been the mouthpiece of God to the world. FYI...salvation was never limited to just the nation of Israel; they were just the witness of God to the world.

#### 22:15-22 – You Belong to God

Two amazing truths. (1) Money bears the image of the government. Therefore, money belongs to the government. So, what is Jesus saying? Pay your taxes and move on. (2) What belongs to God? Who bears His image? People.

Genesis 1:26. We belong to God. We must give ourselves to God. Give yourself completely over to God and obey.

When it comes to the things of the world...give it to the world and continue on your way. When it comes to God...give Him your life and obey His word. There should be a massive contrast between how you handle the things of the world and the things of God.

#### 22:23-33 - The Resurrection Gives Hope

Jesus teaches that we will be individuals in heaven. We will all have the same type of relationship; brothers and sisters in Christ.

He also teaches that there is a resurrection...which is a big point considering the audience. The Sadducees denied there being a resurrection. The resurrection is a wonderful truth that brings us hope. In the resurrection we will experience the inheritance that has been promised and established for us to enjoy for all eternity. What is our inheritance? God Himself.

#### 22:34-40 – The Sum of All the Commands: Love God, Love Others

The two great commandments. Love God, love others. That's your fall back. Whenever you are caught in a situation or circumstance and you don't know what to do...love God, love others. Believers should always fall back to these foundational actions. Yes, loving God and loving others are actions. Why? Because love is an action verb. You cannot passively love someone. You have to "do something" to love. 1 Corinthians 13 explains that love is BEING: being kind, being patient, etc. That should be our default mode.

#### 22:41-46 – Jesus is the Lord

The king never called anyone lord. Especially a descendant. Jesus again quotes Scripture to respond to the Pharisees. And He quotes a Psalm that is directly speaking about the Messiah. And based on this passage David considers the Messiah to be the Lord. (Psalm 110)

#### Discussion Questions

- Are you working hard to be the witness of God that you have been given the privilege to become?
- You belong to God. How should that truth impact your daily life?
- How are you actively seeking ways to love God and love others?
- Lord means master, owner & ruler. Are you able to say with confidence that Jesus is Lord of your life?

## Matthew 23 – Jesus Warns the Unbelieving

### 23:1-7 – Pride (thinking you are more than you are)

Simply put the Pharisees loved the praise of man rather than the praise of God. It's easy to fall for the trap of "peer approval" because we love being loved. Believers are not to be living a life for the desire to receive praise and approval from other human beings. You cannot live trying to please man and simultaneously live for God's glory. Paul explains this in Galatians 1:10.

Living for man's approval is a life full of heartache, defeat, loss, stress and etc. We have to work hard to please man. It's not that way with God. We do not have to work hard to please God. The gospel makes us righteous through Christ, which means that God is completely pleased with you because of Christ. Why? Because when He looks at your account, He sees Christ's righteousness covering you. Believers don't work hard to be "good enough" for God, we are free to live for God's glory in faithful obedience. This reality keeps us humble. Anything good in us...is clearly Christ in us. A right understanding of the gospel gives you a right understanding of pride.

### 22:8-12 – Arrogance (thinking you are better than others)

No one can take the place of God. He is the great Teacher, Father and Messiah. Jesus gives us the picture of the Trinity. Teacher = Holy Spirit, father = Father, instructor = Jesus. The temptation is to think that within man exist the answers to life. That is extreme arrogance. We must not turn to ourselves to get what only God can provide. For example: don't turn to your emotions, your own logic, your own experiences to make life decisions. Your emotions, logic and experiences have no power to guide you. God's Word alone has the power to guide you into making God-glorifying life decisions. Why? Because only God's Word can pierce to the soul (Hebrews 4:12).

How do we know if we are listening to God's Word or our own desires? One indicator is when you turn to God for your life decisions, you'll find that He leads you to be a humble servant of others. God is always leading you to love Him and love others. Sin, on the other hand, will always lead you to love self first; to seek your own desires above all.

### 23:13-32 – The Eight Woes

Jesus moves into the 8 woes. These are serious warnings that should be considered. Don't just read through these and assume it's about someone else. Whenever God says "woe" ...we should stop and meditate to see if the "woe" applies to us.

### 23:33-36 – Judgement is Coming

Who is Jesus sending? He sent John the Baptist and the disciples; who would be flogged, killed and crucified. Therefore, judgement is coming. Judgement came in one form in AD 70 when the temple was destroyed.

### 23:37-39 - Jesus's Lamenting over Jerusalem

Jesus gave them an opportunity to repent or face the judgement. If you deny Christ now...you will one day stand face to face with Him and declare He is Lord...and then you will be cast into the lake of fire.

### Discussion Questions

- What role is pride and arrogance playing in your daily life? What is your plan to correct those sins?
- Why is it so easy to hear warning from God and immediately think someone else needs to hear that?
- Judgement is coming. How should that reality influence our determination to share the gospel with others?
- Jesus desires for His people to repent. What role does repentance play in your life? What role should it play?