

ENEMIES SILENCED

Matthew 21:23-27

The Context:

(A) The day before, JESUS made HIS triumphal entry into Jerusalem, *sitting upon an ass and upon a colt the foal of an ass*

Matthew 21:1-11 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage (BETH-fage), unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, 2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose [*them*], and bring [*them*] unto me. 3 And if any [*man*] say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. 4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. 6 And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, 7 And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set [*him*] thereon. 8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed [*them*] in the way. 9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed [*is*] he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. 10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? 11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

in fulfillment of prophecies of:

Genesis 49:10-11 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him [*shall*] the gathering of the people [*be*]. 11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine;

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he [*is*] just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even

the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

(B) The day before, JESUS cleansed the temple by casting out *the money changers*

Matthew 21:12-15 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money - changers, and the seats of them that sold doves, 13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. 14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. 15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased,

in fulfillment of:

Malachi 3:1-3 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he [*is*] like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: 3 And he shall sit [*as*] a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

(C) The day before, JESUS has again healed *the blind and the lame in the temple*

Matthew 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

in fulfillment of

Isaiah 35:4-6 Say to them [*that are*] of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come [*with*] vengeance, [*even*] God [*with*] a recompence; he will come and save you. 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame [*man*] leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Matthew 21:23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

(A) The *chief priests and the elders* are quick to investigate as they did John the Baptist – John 1:15-34

(B) But they are slow to believe. Did they believe the messenger or forerunner's John the Baptist's testimony about baptism?

(C) Martin Luther said: I believe in order to obey – I obey in order to believe.

(D) JESUS is now in the temple, but let's see if they believed the Messenger cf: Malachi 3:1ff

Matthew 21:24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like-wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

If they could not deal with the authority of the messenger - John the Baptist how could they deal with His authority as Messiah and Lord as found in the same prophecy?

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 21:25-26 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

There was no safe response, so their answer is to be evasive.

Matthew 21:27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

How can we expect to know more, when we won't take action on what we have?

Psalms 119:32 I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

Now, we have the context for the following two parables:

THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS

Matthew 21:28-32

Remember, JESUS is talking to religious leaders who were not doing what they claimed they believed (the Old Testament) and who refused to follow the guidance they had from the messenger – John the Baptist!

Matthew 21:28 But what think ye? A [*certain*] man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to-day in my vineyard.

(A) *A certain man* is obviously GOD.

(B) The vineyard of the Lord is Israel.

Isaiah 5:1 Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

Isaiah 5:7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts [*is*] the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

Matthew 21:29-30 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. 30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I [*go*], sir: and went not.

These two responses are the responses of GOD'S people throughout the ages!

Matthew 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of [*his*] father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

(A) *Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.*

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [*it is*] in heaven.

(B) God's will is that we bear fruit – souls

John 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [*branch*] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch

cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye [*are*] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing

and our sanctification or Christian Character

I Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, [*even*] your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

– from the heart –

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law

(D) GOD can *make you perfect in every good work to do HIS will ...*"

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom [*be*] glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Go work today in my vineyard!

Matthew 21:32 32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen [*it*], repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Non-faith the blackest of all sins –

Is to hear the word of GOD and fail to repent that ye might believe.

John 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED HUSBANDMEN

Matthew 21:33-46

Matthew 21:33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

(A) A certain householder is God who planted the vineyard Israel

Psalm 80:8-9 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. 9 Thou preparedst [*room*] before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.

(B) The pastors and husbandmen would *destroy* the *vineyard*.

Jeremiah 12:10 Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

Matthew 21:34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

(A) The prophets had come to claim the peaceful fruits of righteousness.

Isaiah 1:21 How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

(B) But there had occurred a change in the hearts of the husbandmen, from his vineyard, *to our vineyard*.

Matthew 21:35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

(A) *There will be no harvest without us, it's our vineyard, we've done the work!*

(B) Anger and greed capture the hearts of the husbandmen.

Acts 7:51-54 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers [*did*], so [*do*] ye. 52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept [*it*]. 54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with [*their*] teeth.

Acts 7:57-58 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, 58 And cast [*him*] out of the city, and stoned [*him*]:

and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Hebrews 11:32-39 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon (GID-e-on), and [of] Barak (BUH-rock), and [of] Samson, and [of] Jephthae (JEF-thay); [of] David also, and Samuel, and [of] the prophets: 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36 And others had trial of [*cruel*] mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and [*in*] mountains, and [*in*] dens and caves of the earth. 39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

Matthew 21:36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

We've gone too far to stop now!

Matthew 14:10 And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

Matthew 21:37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

The landowner's son comes to the vineyard *riding upon an ass, and a upon a colt, the foal of an ass* cf:

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he [is] just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

cf: Matt 21:1-1 ff.

Matthew 21:38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

“Do you realize what we can do now? This is the heir!

It's his legacy – the ownership of the vineyard is transferred to the son! Kill him and it's ours!

John 11:47-50 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. 48 If we let him thus alone, all [*men*] will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. 49 And one of them, [*named*] Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, 50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

Matthew 21:39 And they caught him, and cast [*him*] out of the vineyard, and slew [*him*].

Hebrews 13:11-12 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. 12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate

Matthew 21:40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

Will they condemn their own selves?

Matthew 12:34-37 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned

Matthew 21:41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out [*his*] vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

They told the truth – God did exactly that which they spoke.

(A) God allowed Titus of Rome to destroy both Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD just as Daniel the Prophet had said would be the result of the MESSIAH being *cut off* (killed).

Daniel 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [*shall be*] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

(B) GOD cast away Israel

Romans 11:15 For if the casting away of them [*be*] the reconciling of the world, what [*shall*] the receiving [*of them be*], but life from the dead?

Just as the prophet Isaiah had said HE would Cf:

Isaiah 62:2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Isaiah 65:15 And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:

Acts 4:11-12 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 11:1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Matthew 21:42-43 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Justice – you may reject the stone (SON).

Psalms 118:22 The stone [*which*] the builders refused is become the head [*stone*] of the corner.

But GOD will lay the stone (SON).

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [*stone*], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Matthew 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

JESUS is the stone!

Isaiah 8:13-15 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and [*let*] him [*be*] your fear, and [*let*] him [*be*] your dread.¹⁴ And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.¹⁵ And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Matthew 21:45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

Amazing insight!

I Peter 2:5-9 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe [*he is*] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, [*even to them*] which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9 But ye [*are*] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Matthew 21:46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

Sources: KJV, theWord.com,