Authority Challenged

Gary Wilemon · Matthew 21:23–22:14

INTRODUCTION

- And in verse 23 of this chapter, we find them asking Jesus for the source of his authority. What right do you have to do the things that you're doing?
- So they would not answer his question, and so he would not answer their question.
- Jesus then shared to these chief priests and scribes three parables, which were intended to leave in them no doubt exactly how the Lord Jesus felt about their refusal to acknowledge that John had the authority of the Father.

1 The Two Sons and the Will of the Father

Matthew 21:28–32

- A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, Son, go work today in the vineyard.
- The tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him.
- You claim to be the people of God. You are the chief priest and the ruler. And yet you're not listening to what your father tells you.
- He wants more from us than words. He wants us then to follow through. He wants us to actually do it.
- It's not enough to say, I'm going to do it. We have to then do it. And we have to keep doing it.

2 The Vine Growers and the Landowner's Son

Matthew 21:33–46; Psalm 118:22–23; 1 Corinthians 3:11

- He does everything that he can do to make this a productive vineyard.
- They'll respect my son. If he really thought that, he was wrong about that, wasn't he? Because they didn't respect him either.
- That stone actually became the chief cornerstone. That's the one stone on which everything was going to be built. We understand that stone that's being talked about is the Lord Jesus Himself.
- No man can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- The Lord is going to take the kingdom away from them and give it to another people, another nation, literally, who will produce the fruit of it.

3 A King Who Gave a Wedding Feast

- The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.
- They seem to simply have been preoccupied with their own affairs. One went to his farm, one went to his business.

- The king looks at it this way. He says, those who were invited were not worthy. They weren't worthy.
- Would that include tax collectors and prostitutes? Apparently so, because we're told that both the evil and the good were invited, and the wedding hall was filled.
- There was a proper way to respond to this invitation. And this man did not do so.

4 Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen

Acts 13:46

- It is a marvelous thing to be invited by the king, to be asked by the Father, to work at his vineyard, to be called. But it's another thing to respond in an appropriate way.
- And it's how we respond, which is really the most important thing.
- Since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.
- John the Baptist would fit that second personal messenger perfectly.
- That he was sent from God, that he was sent with authority from God, and they should have listened to him.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you a Christian tonight? Have you obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ? If you have not, why would you delay?

MY NOTES