In Rebellion Against God…Your Options

Tony Mauck · Matthew 21:33–46

INTRODUCTION

- From him are all things, and through him are all things, and to him are all things. This is his vineyard. It's not ours. We're caretakers.
- Don't rest in the fact that in the past you had a healthy relationship with God.
- True fruit production begins with what's going on in here.

1 Deny God

- One popular option is to deny God. That is a common approach.
- People don't think their way out of the kingdom. They behave their way out.
- Instead of dealing with that and the guilt thereof, let's just eliminate God and his word altogether.
- The recipients of the Matthew 21 parable couldn't really say, okay, God doesn't exist.

2 Change the Standard, Change God

Isaiah 5:20; Judges 17:6; James 2:10

- You change the standard of acceptable behavior in an attempt to manipulate God.
- Woe to those who call evil good. And who call good evil. Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.
- There is no king in Israel, and everyone is doing what is right in his own eyes.
- I'm going to take the scriptures and I'm going to mold them after my liking and my choosing.

3 Blame Others

James 1:15; 1 Corinthians 13:5

- It's the woman that you gave me. He's not only blaming Eve, he's blaming God.
- That's the way people reason. I'm not responsible.
- Lust, when it is conceived, brings forth sin, and sin, when it comes to fruition brings forth death.
- Ultimately, if you're in rebellion, you have no one to blame but yourself.
- God gave you some instruction, Saul, and you didn't comply. And he called it rebellion.

4 I Know I've Done Wrong, I Admit It

- I know I've done wrong. I admit it. And if I die in this condition, I'm lost.
- My only concern about this position is that it doesn't fix the problem.
- Don't get so hardened in the path of sin that recovery becomes a huge mountain to climb.

- It is infinitely better to choose to do the right thing and trust in God's help and provision to see you through.

5 Quit the Conduct and Set Yourself on Change

1 Peter 2:1–2; James 1:21–22; 2 Corinthians 5:21

- You've got to quit the conduct. You must express godly sorrow for the rebellion that you have committed against God, and then set yourself on the course of change.
- Repentance is an initial step, is the beginning step in obedience to the Lord, but it will likewise be an ongoing step.
- Putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy, and envy, and all slander. Be like babes who long for the pure milk of the word.
- I think the first thing you have to do is look at things differently.
- Totally remove self from the equation for some time, you will be on your way to becoming more like Jesus.
- The truth is that all of us, when we come into Christ, are a bit of a fixer-upper. And we need each other's help.

THE CHALLENGE

You're going to try to change God, that's not going to work either. Going to blame other people. Or just live with the guilt. Or are you going to repent and change and be a fixer up?

MY NOTES