

Matthew 21.28-46

The End of Patience

Was in 1887 Capt Wm Moore of Canada 1st came Beautiful Alaskan Port
 Later that year RETURNED w/ Family get Ready for Tidal Wave Gold Miners
 1/3 ALL WORLD's GOLD is Hidden in Mtns & Streams of Alaska
 Moore Family laid CLAIM to 160 acres in Valley Floor – built Cabin & Dock
 Called place **Mooresville** – SURE ENOUGH 1896 Gold was Discovered
 Family worked 10 years Planning Mooresville > to Make Happy Home Miners
 Streets Made & lined w/ Trees – Buildings – Parks – Schools ALL Planned
 Prepared for 100's Miners > Came by 10's of 1000's!! Mooresville OVERRUN
 NOT Appreciate Moore's > SEIZED Land & Cabin DROVE Family from Town
 Don't Look for Mooresville on Alaska MAP > Miners named city SKAGWAY

PAUSE Studies of Matthew – Next week Follow King Jesus another Bible book
 Fitting – as he's often done – Matthew SERVES Up 2 Parables for our STUDY

1. Gifts

a. Much Given Both Parables > Everything that Everyone has is a GIFT
 v. 33 “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country”

Possible OVER-INTERPRET Parables – Seek DEEP Meaning in Each Detail??
 Some THINK All parts of Parable are SYMBOLS that Need DE-CODING

Let me Tell you MEANING of House, Vineyard, Fence, Winepress, Tower
 House, Vineyard, Fence, Winepress, Tower > Familiar Scene 1st C JUDEA
 KEY to Understand Bible > Look for the SIMPLE, OBVIOUS MEANING
 Bible NOT SECRET SYMBOL Book that NEEDS to be DECODED

Instead of TRYING to UNWEAVE Colors of Rainbow – Decoding all Details
BEST to Look at Over-all IMPACT of Story > Fully-Equipped VINEYARD
Blessed TENANTS NOT-LACKING for ANYTHING from Generous Master
MASTER is Faithful PROVIDER and a Fearsome PROTECTOR

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. James 1.18

James 1.18

As WE Gather in Room Today from MANY NATIONS –
Gifts Country-mates NEVER IMAGINED – Many friends at Home No Passport
PPT's to STUDY, WORK, Opportunities – Capital City World's Largest Nation

ABSENTEE Landlord COMMON in 1st C PALESTINE

Landowner MUST be WEALTHY – Newly Planted fields NOT Bear Fruit
MUST WAIT 4 Years – at Least – before any Return for BIG Investment

b. Much Required

Another KEY to Understand Bible – Realize there are 2 Testaments

“The New is in the Old concealed and the Old is in the New revealed”

Cited (and perhaps coined) by Augustine

ONE Unfolding, Consistent, Unified Message of God from Genesis to Revelation.
IGNORING OT Background of NT – Like Coming into Movie Almost OVER

Jesus' 1st C Jewish Listeners clearly Knew He was talking ABOUT THEM
700 years BEFORE Jesus was Born – Prophet ISAIAH painted this PICTURE...

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes...

See from OT Background of NT Parable – VINEYARD Symbol of ISRAEL

God so LOVED World chose ISRAEL to Bring Forth Son to Bless NATIONS

He TENDERLY brot them to LIFE, NURTURED, PROTECTED, PROVIDED

Landowners HOME was FAR Away – Long Journey to the VINEYARD

Frequently Sent MESSENGERS > So Not TOO FAR Away for RECKONING

REPEATED Word “FRUIT” – what OWNER Requires

All thru Scripture – GOD Commands Fruitfulness in OT & NT

BOTH Parables Point to TIME of RECKONING – JUDGMENT Day

REMINDER of National Accountability – WHERE is the FRUIT of Vineyard?

In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once. Matthew 21.18-19

Lack of FRUIT > Shamefully Exposed FAILURE of Temple REGIME

TENANTS > Clearly Understood as CURRENT LEADERS of Jerusalem

2. Giver

Jesus' FIRST PUBLIC UNVEILING to TRUE IDENTITY in Matthew

Not a FOLLOWER of King Jesus – May be UNCOMFORTABLE Picture

UNSEEN God is CONTROL, Authority, Must ANSWER to HIM

Other Philosophies have DIFFERENT Theories of REALITY in Universe
 NO GOD, No Divine Plan – FATE, KARMA, CHANCE, Self-Determinism

I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.

William Ernest Henley, Invictus, 1888

STIRRING Words of Self-Importance, Self-Sufficiency, he's DEAD NOW

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures... These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

Psalm 104.24-29

I am TRYING to FOLLOW King Jesus > Makes me Uncomfortable TOO!

SINNER who has been SAVED – BUT I still SIN – Want my AUTONOMY

Sometimes I would RATHER Negotiate TERMS of my OWN CONTRACT

Our TEXT does NOT GIVE very much WIGGLE Room for my Negotiations

v. 28 A man had two sons....

v. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?"

v. 33 "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house...

v. 34 When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.

SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY of this Master is ABUNDANTLY Clear

BOTH Stories of PARABLE describes ALL that God has DONE....

Plant Vineyard – Put Fence – Dug Winepress – Built Tower – Leased to Tenants

GREAT PATIENCE when Beloved People REJECTED His Word & Workers

GRACIOUS Giver for Both SON who STARTS and FINISHES the Work

God FREELY gives to US who Faithfully WORSHIP HIM here NOW

Just as FREELY gives to those SLEEPING in Dorm w/ No thought of God

Learned about Capt. Wm Moore when visited Skagway on Alaska Cruise Ship

CRUISE Ship > OVERSTOCKED Universe for OverWEIGHT Passengers

Can't Think of Anything MISSING: Food, Drink, Lodging, Health Care, Chapel

We were Surprised FAMILY DRAMA when Boarding Ship in Port SEATTLE

KIDS/PARENTS Screaming at E/Other "I don't wanna get on that boat w/you!"

Thankfulness to God is NOT an OPTION it is ETERNAL OBLIGATION

...they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him
as God or give thanks to him

Romans 1.20,21

You're NOT HAPPY give BRATTY NEPHEW Nice Gift never says Thanks

NEITHER is our HEAVENLY FATHER – Giver of EVERY GIFT

King David "...For all things come from you, and of your own have we given
you"

1 Chronicles 29.14

Too often OUR Prayers are more like those of Bart Simpson...

"God, we worked really hard for this stuff, so thanks for nothing!" Bart Simpson

3. Grumblers

a. Fully Responsible

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145.18

That is JUST What RELIGIOUS LEADERS were NOT DOING

Came to God on THEIR TERMS, Negotiate their Contracts, Made DEMANDS

NOT Failure of FRUITS – Failure of TENANTS

IMMEDIATE Context of Matthew's Gospel – Dark Clouds gather over JESUS
Jewish Religious Leaders: Just Challenged Jesus with HOSTILE Questions
NOT to FOLLOW His ANSWERS but to FLAUNT their AUTHORITY
Jesus was in a real battle here. Theological punches are being thrown by the
Jewish authorities and *by him.* O'Donnell

The PUNCHES by the Authorities are POINTED QUESTIONS

The PUNCH by Jesus is in this POINTED PARABLE

b. Faithlessly Rebel

When FRUIT Comes – Must Pay AGREED Upon Portion to Landowner

FAULT of Tenants for Stealing is MASSIVELY Compounded

vs. 35,36 And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.

ECHOES Words of JEREMIAH...

From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day. Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. Jeremiah 7.25-26

For 6 months Jesus told DISCIPLES He would be Killed

NOW tells Jewish leaders in form of STORY

DARED to KILL Master's SERVANTS – Incredibly MURDERED his SON

Story moves from Economic DISPUTE to UNSPEAKABLE CRIME

MURDER of Son – Clear Reference to upcoming CRUCIFIXION of Jesus

Leaders OFFENDED, JEALOUS, ANGRY, Plotting > KILLED Him that Week

God in the Scriptures foretells this very event; and these men, prompted by hatred, rush to bring it to pass.

Don Carson

FEW Weeks LATER they heard Apostle Peter's charge...

...this Jesus, you delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men

He is Master of All – Sons & Sinners – Tenants & Traitors

4. Glory

These STORIES – Indeed ALL Bible – Reveal GLORY of God

MASTER who NEEDS Nothing or No One – Pours out Blessings

God does NOT TREAT Us as our SINS DESERVE > Mercy and Grace

a. Spurned - We REFUSE to SERVE – Rather GRUMBLE than give GLORY

Islamic State militants beheaded a renowned antiquities scholar - Khaled al-Asaad, 82 - in the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra and hung his mutilated body on a column in a main square of the historic site because he apparently refused to reveal where valuable artefacts had been moved for safekeeping.

The Guardian, 19 August 2015

40 years Studying and Securing Ancient TREASURES of Syrian HOMELAND

Mr. al-Asaad GAVE his Life to Keep Syrian Treasures SAFE

Lord Jesus Christ > His Mutilated BODY hung from Cross by Vicious KILLERS

4 BIG Differences – Mr. al-Assad Noble Gentleman – Just a MAN

Jesus Christ – is the SON of God, and GOD the SON

2nd, Mr. al-Assad died for TREASURES, Jesus Christ dies for TRAITORS

3rd Jesus BLOOD has POWER to CLEANS even his KILLERS

v. 31 Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”

Word PROSTITUTE carries NO SHOCK in WORLD TODAY

Mainstream Business, Happy Hookers, Television Celebrities

But in JESUS Day they were SCUM of SOCIETY – Worst of Worst

SHOCK is INTENTIONAL – Really BAD People! Are IN

PROUD Religious Leaders are OUT

4th SAD Difference: Mr. al-Assad’s Beloved TREASURES Destroyed this Week

SOVEREIGN God’s PLAN cannot be THWARTED – His Will Will be DONE

God does NOT Change PLAN – but He DOES Change THE PEOPLE

v. 43 “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits”

No Glorious Kingdom for SMUG Religious People

People who THINK God OWES them Something – Shake their Fist at Him

PEOPLE who Happily USE the Gifts BUT Never THANK the GIVER – LOST

PARABLE is Outrageous – What Landowner Sends Son to Murderous Thieves?

DRAMATIC CENTER of Story is SENDING of the SON

For those UNGRATEFUL WRETCHES there will be an End of PATIENCE

vs. 40,41 When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons...

Jewish RELIGIOUS Leaders had been Primary Way God expressed His Rule
Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Prophets, Priests, Kings – NOW Leaders utterly Failed

FORFEIT Privilege of Leadership

Jewish Leaders will NO LONGER MEDIATE the Rule of God

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son Hebrews 1.1,2

The SON will always have GOD'S LAST WORD

SON is Father's MESSENGER with all the Father's AUTHORITY

DESERVES the Respect and Obedience that is DUE the FATHER

REJECT the Son's DEMAND is CLIMAX of Rebellion

KILLING the Son adds INSULT to INJURY

Spontaneous IMPULSE – Ill Conceived Plan – Reject RULE of LAW

The Christian reader cannot fail to see here the status of Jesus as the Son of God, the heir of the vineyard of Israel, and his death as Israel's culminating act of rebellion, and may well reflect on how futile it was to try and escape from under God's rule. To kill the son is an act of defiance to the father, and he cannot be expected to let him get away with it.

R.T. France

COMING of the Owner / DESTRUCTION of Jerusalem

FATE of the Tenants – NOT Merely EVICTION but “Destruction”

TEMPLE was DESTROYED SPIRITUALLY in 33 AD – Cross & Resurrection

PHYSICALLY Destroyed 70 AD by Forces of ROME

b. Shines - STONE important Symbol in Early Church

Psalm 118 – STONE – first Referred to King David

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118.21-24

King DAVID was IGNORED and Rejected by Family, Goliath, King Saul

So also David's SON and LORD also Rejected by OWN People

Jesus – tho REJECTED by Men is the TRUE ISRAEL of God

GOD Delivers & Delights in what Man Despises

REJECTED Stone becomes Cornerstone

REJECTED Son becomes the CHRIST

Rejection & Crucifixion NOT JUST a TRAGEDY it is HIGH TREASON

It was MOST WICKED, HEINOUS, CRIME of ALL HISTORY

GENTLE JESUS uses Terrifying Words to describe Eternal Seriousness

Won't just TRIP Over Him – will be GROUND TO POWDER

VINEYARD is NOT Destroyed it is Given New Lease on LIFE

Embodied NOW into a NEW NATION

Neither ISRAEL or GENTILES – People DRAWN from BOTH

“...the elect of Christ's kingdom, a rightly ruled community that is not defined ethnically – as Jewish or Gentile – but spiritually, as those whose faith is fruitful... God is patient; God is just. Don't try his patience; trust his Son.”

O'Donnell

Distinguishing MARK of NEW Nation will be their TRUE FRUIT

c. Saves - Psalm 118 POINTS beyond Cross to Resurrection & Ascension of X
From RUBBLE of Scattered Temple Stones ONE Emerges for New Foundation

Daniel 2 - STONE of God will Smash all Kingdoms and FILL Earth
STONE will RESCUE You or RUIN You

FIRST Parable of our Text shows TWO RESPONSES of TWO SONS

1st Son “I Won’t but DID” – Jesus says they’re Tax Collectors, Prostitutes

2nd Son “I Will but DID NOT” > Jesus Points to Religious LEADERS

Clear Message - Anyone WELCOME into Kingdom IF they REPENT

NOBODY is ALLOWED who will NOT REPENT

Visited ____ Churches this SUMMER – Many Differences – FILLED w/ Sinners

Entrance into Kingdom not Depend whether you’re Prostitute or Pharisee

What matters if you are PENITENT – Jesus REPEATS for EMPHASIS

v. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes *believed him*. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and *believe him*.

Vital to Understand > PERSON is NOT SAVED by TALK ALONE

“To Jesus, verbal faith is not saving faith; a doing faith is saving faith”

v. 41 They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other *tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons*.”

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River. Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. Turn again, O God of

hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself. They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face! But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name! Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved! Psalm 80.8-19

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4.11,12

Matthew 21.²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went.³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.³³ “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country.³⁴ When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.³⁵ And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.⁴⁰ When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.⁴⁴ And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.⁴⁶ And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

1. If you are a First Century Jew listening to Jesus tell this story (about 30 AD), what do you think is the future of your nation?
2. If you are a late First Century Jew reading Matthew after your Temple has been destroyed by the Romans (after 70 AD), what do you think is the future of your nation?
3. Why, as Christians, is it a mistake to place our future hopes on our nations?

4. This is one of many “fulfilled prophecies” found in the Bible. How many do you need to believe that God is real and His Word is True? If you do believe, how many people know it?