

# Warnings Unheeded

Sermon 62 in the Matthew Series

## Matthew 21:23-46

### I. The Lord's Authority Questioned 21:23-27

#### A. Jesus Answers their Questions, on his Terms, not Theirs.

Jesus does not question their right to question Him.

They were the designated shepherds of Israel – it was their job to declare Christ as Messiah – or as a false prophet.

#### B. The Answer they Gave was not Designed to Discern Truth

#### C. Their Refusal to Give an Honest Answer – Results in Christ refusing to Give them another Opportunity for Repentance

### II. The Parable of the Two Sons 21:28-32

It was more normal for Jesus to wait and give the interpretation to his disciples in private. As we have seen, parables usually have two purposes.

- To teach the receptive.
- To obscure truth from the hard-hearted. (Matt. 13:10-17).

Here – he tells them right to their face – in detail -- and still they still refuse to believe.

### III. The Wicked Vinedressers 21:33-41

#### A. This is a Predictive Parable.

Behind the free will of man is the absolute Sovereignty of God.

Acts 4:27-28 -- For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together<sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

#### B. The Background to this Parable – Isaiah 5:1-7

The day of mercy was over.

The day of sending representatives of peace was over.

If they refuse to hear the Son – and the fact they dared to kill the Son  
– all that was left was to execute judgment on them!

### III. **The Application of the Parable 21:42-46**

#### A. Psalm 118:22-23 (v. 42-43)

The stone *which* the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup>This was the LORD's doing; It *is* marvelous in our eyes.

This is part of the Hallel.

The people would be singing this Psalm during Passover week.

The picture is of the building stones – gathered for Solomon's Temple.

- All the stones are carefully planned, crafted and chiseled.
- This large stone, for some reason is rejected and set aside.
- It turns out this is the perfect foundation stone – so from the scrap heap – it is chosen to be the most important stone of the entire structure.

#### C. Isaiah 8:14, 15 (v. 44)

He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense  
To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.  
<sup>15</sup>And many among them shall stumble;  
They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken."

#### D. Peter put both these thoughts together in 1 Peter 2:6-8

Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,  
"Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious,  
And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."  
<sup>7</sup>Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient,  
"The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"  
<sup>8</sup>and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense."  
They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

#### E. The Warning goes Unheeded v. 45-46

#### E. Final Application