

Give God what Belongs to Him

#3259 25 1019A; Matthew 21 and 22

wds1670

1 Jesus tells parables to reinforce important Gospel truths. **Matthew 21** is His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the cleansing of the temple, the withered fig tree, the two sons—one who said *Yes* and didn't do; and the other who said *No* and did—and the parable of the *householder* who planted a vineyard, but his servants withheld what belonged to him.

2 Jesus concludes that parable with **AV Matthew 21:40** “*When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?*”

3 **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.”*

4 Jesus then relates that response to the attitude of most today. **42** “*Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?*”

5 **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.”*

6 Jesus then told a parable about those who are unwilling to accept Him—

7 **AV Matthew 22:2** “*The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.”*

8 They were *unwilling* to accept his invitation, as we are often *unwilling* to obey God's Word.

9 Also—**AV Matthew 22:5** “*They made light of the [invitation], and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:*

10 **6** *And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.”*

11 The king was wroth, furious, and **7** “*Sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.”*

12 The fate of so many today will be the fate of those who make light of God's Truth; who are not interested in Jesus or living a scriptural life, and instead are involved with, and interested in, everything of this world.

13 The life God requires is **AV Micah 6:8** “*To do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.*” The world in general is *unjust*; shows *no mercy*; and walks *proudly*. Three requirements—**1** justice, **2** mercy, **3** humility.

14 **AV Matthew 22:8** “*Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.”*

15 The Kingdom of God is waiting and the invitation given—how are we responding? How can we be worthy to enter God's Kingdom?

16 All are invited; all can be accepted by God, but a *proper response* must be seen.

17 **AV Matthew 22:10** “*So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.*” Anyone of any nation or language can attend.

18 **AV Matthew 22:11** “*When the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:*

19 **NKJV 12** “*So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.”*

20 Think how *many* will be *speechless* when they stand before the Judge of everyone! Imagine how *many* will have *no answer* and *no excuse* for the way they *talked* and the words they *used* while here on earth! We will *all* give account for “*every idle word*” on the “*day of judgment*” **Matthew 12:36**.

21 In that day, a *wedding garment* would be the attire that the king would specify and all who attended would comply with that requirement.

22 The comparison would be trying to enter God's Kingdom clothed in unrighteous attitudes of the world, rather than the righteousness of Christ.

23 We are righteous by **1** *believing* in Jesus; **2** *accepting* His teaching; and **3** *living* a life of faith in Him.

24 The man clothed in the unrighteous attire of the world was given a serious sentence and met the worst fate imaginable—

25 **13** “*Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”*

26 That is the answer to **14** “*For many are called, but few are chosen.*” The *many* is the multitude of the world who are called to glorify God and to represent Christ by their life, their words, their choices, and treatment of fellow humans—but not much of that is seen in the world today.

27 So many *called*, but so few *enter* because of no response to the invitation God gives. The many who are called are the multitudes **NIV Revelation 5:9** from “*Every tribe and language and people and nation.*”

28 The invitation is clearly stated **AV John 6:37** All that “*cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*”

29 Some religious and political leaders opposed Jesus and tried to trap Him in His words. They asked Him a question about taxes because His answer would offend either the Jews or the

Romans since the two groups were on opposite sides of the tax issue.

30 AV **Matthew 22:15** “Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might **entangle** him in his talk. **16** And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians [a political party that supported King Herod], saying,

31 Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men—or NIV *You pay no attention to who they are.*”

32 This was false flattery, for the intention of the Pharisees was only to discredit Jesus by the question on paying government taxes. They only wanted to trap Him—if Jesus said it was okay to pay taxes, the Herodians would like Him, and the Pharisees would hate Him.

33 If Jesus said it was not okay to pay taxes, the Pharisees would like Him, and the Herodians would hate Him.

34 Also, Jesus’ followers would be divided along party lines as well. The Pharisees and Herodians both thought they had backed Jesus into a corner. AV **Matthew 22:17** “Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?”

35 **18** “But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, *Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?* **19** *Shew me the tribute money.* And they brought unto him a penny. **20** And he saith unto them, *Whose is this image and superscription?*

36 **21** They say unto him, *Caesar's.* Then saith he unto them, *Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.*”

37 Some interpret that to mean tithing on our gain and supporting the church, but a more accurate interpretation would be to **Give God what**

Belongs to Him which is our entire life, our attitudes and our heart.

38 Jesus asking, “*Whose is this image?*” Takes us to **Genesis 1:26** “God said, Let us make man in our **image**, after our likeness.”

39 Jesus looked at the image on the coin and said “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s” because the image of Caesar was on the coin. If the first part means give Caesar that which bears his image, then the second part means give to God that which bears the image of God.

40 We bear the image and likeness of God which separates us from the rest of creation. Humans have a *body, soul, and spirit* which is how we have been created in the image and likeness of God.

41 NKJV **John 4:24** “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

42 God is omnipresent, existing everywhere at once. God is not confined by physical space or time and can be worshipped in spirit and truth which involves genuine, heartfelt devotion.

43 Being a spirit means God is invisible, not limited by matter, and is a living, personal being with will and emotions that can be known personally.

44 Our essential nature is spiritual so our spirit will outlive our physical body.

45 Our God is revealed in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are one individual, but consist of a *body, soul, and spirit*—the same pattern as God in three Persons.

46 We are to give God what **belongs** to Him—our entire being—body, soul, and spirit.

47 Because of sin we are alienated from God. We all need to have a close fellowship with Him and is why He put a plan in place to reconcile us to Himself through Christ.

48 NKJV **Colossians 1:21** “You, who once were **alienated** and enemies in your mind by wicked

*works, yet now He has reconciled **22** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.*”

49 We can now return to our rightful Owner—and give back to God what belongs to Him, as we live a life of faith on the Atonement sacrifice of Jesus.

50 The next verse explains **23** “if indeed you **continue** in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven.”

51 Giving back to God what belongs to Him is giving our entire life back to Him. It is a major move and decision that promises eternal rewards and everlasting life with Jesus and all who have gone before us.

52 The Bible is clear—AV **1 Corinthians 6:20** “For ye are **bought** with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” It is only right and reasonable to give to God, what rightfully **belongs to Him**.



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Matthew 21 and 22