

CRUSHING CALOUSNESS

Matthew 21:33-46

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.

What do you care?

1. The Parable of the Tenants.

Matthew 21:33-41, Isaiah 5:1-5, Acts 7:51-53

What is the point of climactic tension in Jesus' parable?

2. We Stand Before the Unquestionable Authority of The Son.

Matthew 21:42-46, Psalm 118, Isaiah 8, Acts 4:10-12, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Romans 9:30-33, Ephesians 2:14-22.

What do the verbs - "Rejected" "Taken away" and "given" tell you about human responsibility before Christ.

Why is there so much more to this than debates about the rejection of Israel?

SUNDAY EVENING: PSALM 4 CHRISTIAN TEMPERAMENT

Psalm 4:1-8

1 To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David. Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! 2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? Selah 3 But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. 4 Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Selah 5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. 6 There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!" 7 You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. 8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Five questions to manage your temperament:

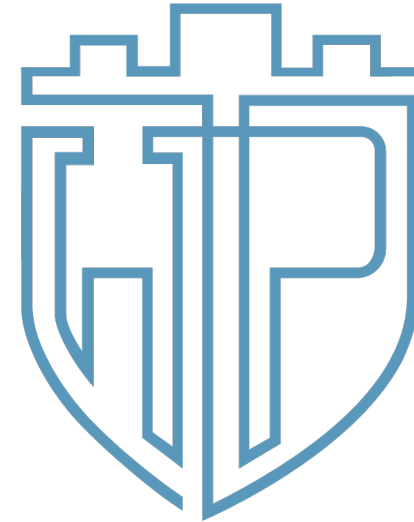
1. Who is God in the midst of your peril? Vs. 1
2. Who is man in the midst of your peril? Vs. 2
3. Who are you in Christ in the midst of your peril? Vs. 3
4. What is my first action? Vs. 4-5
5. How do I test it? Vs. 6-8

Giving Information

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TO PREACH CHRIST
TO BECOME MORE LIKE
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