

## Spoiler Alert: The House Loses

March 16 & 17, 2024

Pastor Doug McCoy



**"I'm Going To Pick A Fight."** - William Wallace and Jesus Christ

**Matthew 21:18** (NIV) **18** Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city,...

On the Tuesday before the Cross, Jesus goes into Jerusalem to pick a fight with *the house*, the Temple-based religious establishment. His intent is to A) defeat and destroy the house, then B) replace it with something better.

**I. The Opening Salvo - Matthew 21:18-22:14.** Jesus is the aggressor in this fight. He initiates it with a prophetic act and a series of parables.




**Matthew 21:18-19** (NIV) ...he was hungry. **19** Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it **but found nothing on it except leaves.** Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

-  Prophetic Act - The Fig Tree
-  Parables - The Two Sons, The Tenants, and The Wedding Banquet

God hates \_\_\_\_\_, and the house is \_\_\_\_\_. That's what Jesus show us in the opening salvo.

**II. The Counterattack - Matthew 22:15-46.** The house responds to Jesus' opening salvo. The managers of the house engage the fight, lining up to take shots at Jesus.

**Matthew 22:15** (NIV) **15** Then the Pharisees went out and **laid plans to trap him** in his words.

-  Authority
-  Taxes, Marriage At The Resurrection, & The Greatest Commandment
-  Whose Son is the Messiah?

The house not only \_\_\_\_\_, but does even more \_\_\_\_\_ to its cause with this counterattack.



**III. The Final Blow - Matthew 23.** Jesus follows the counterattack with a coup de grâce, barraging the house with a flurry of strikes.

**Matthew 23:1-3** (NIV) Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: **2** "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. **3** So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for **they do not practice what they preach.**

This is the kill shot. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the house with this final blow.

**IV. The Rebuild - Matthew 24-25.** The fight over, Jesus delivers a follow-up sermon to achieve the fight's real intent.

**Matthew 24:1-2, 45** (NIV) Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. **2** "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, **not one stone here will be left on another;** every one will be thrown down."..." **45** Who then is **the faithful and wise servant**, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?"

-  The Destruction of Jerusalem and The End of the World
-  The Parables of the Ten Virgins, Talents, and Sheep & Goats

Jesus did this \_\_\_\_\_ the house but \_\_\_\_\_ the disciples. He invites His disciples out of the house and into God's household in this rebuild.

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This house has lost, but other houses remain. Some are spiritual, others are secular. So these questions remain for us modern disciples:

**What house is Jesus inviting me out of?**

and/or

**How can I become a faithful and wise servant?**

Check out A Year in The Bible Podcast.



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