

Matthew 22 “The Inspection of the Messiah”

Stand Read Exodus 12:3-5 pray.

If you are wondering why we just read the scripture from Exodus 12 it is because it deals with the Passover Lamb and the fact that they were to inspect it four days before the Passover. Many commentators, including myself, believe that this is the same day. As the priests are inspecting the lambs the religious leaders are inspection the Lamb of God, the Messiah.

We left off with two parables that were taught to show their failure in rejecting Him as the Messiah. We have one more before the actual testing begins. Let's remember where we left off...

Matthew 21:45-46

Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

They had made up their mind already. No amount of testing will get them to change their minds. The Messiah's fate was already predetermined long ago to be the sinless, spotless Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world!

But first, the third Parable...

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

Matthew 22:1-14

As I just mentioned you would * do well to watch “Before the Wrath” which is available to watch now for free on Jack Hibbs “Real Life Network” If you look really hard you can find both Phyllis and I in it. But it deals with the wedding customs of the day and gives you insight on Jesus’s use of the weddings in His teaching and Parables. The Jews are the invited guests that have refused to go to the feast. Those that are later invited are you and I, the Church, that come in by invitation of the Gospel. Jesus has invited you and all you need to do is come in. And in case you think there is any other way to get in He shares that there was one who was there without a wedding garment. In those times they would dress for the occasion and sometimes the Host would provide the gowns for the wedding. We see that today with the bridesmaids and groomsmen. This represents our righteousness found in Christ.

Revelation 7:14

These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Anyone who would try to come in any other way would look like this...

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

When we stand before God on the day of judgement there will be nothing, we will be able to say. Nothing we have done could ever outweigh our good works.

Romans 3:19

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

And where will that person go? To the outer darkness which is an eternity in hell. You don't have to go there. You have been called.

Matthew 22:14

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

We covered this a couple of weeks ago and I would suggest if you were not here go to our platforms and take a listen. As we have stated all our called but only those that choose Christ are the chosen.

Now for the testing. All three groups of religious leaders will come and try their best to trip Him up. These are not honest tests. But in all three Jesus will come out perfect.

First Test: The Pharisees

Matthew 22:15-22

This was their “Ah-Ha” moment. Either way He answers, we got Him! I have to laugh at all the planning and thinking that went into this. How many different angles did they come up with before they come up with this one. What was the one thing that either side could get riled up about? Taxes! If you are on the receiving end, you love them, on the other, you hate them. If He says yes, the people will hate Him, if He says no, the people will love Him, but the authorities won't. It's a catch 22 but it backfires! Jesus just tells them the truth; the money was part of Caesar's kingdom and not God's. It left them stunned and speechless. Well on to the next group...

Second Test: The Sadducees

Matthew 22:23-33

Now, we need to remember that this group were the liberals of the day that did not believe in an afterlife or miracles. They only held to the law and its moral principles so it was the only place they could go to try to find their trap. Where else do they go but to the law of inheritance. Just so we understand...

Marriage Duty of the Surviving Brother

Deuteronomy 25:5-10

“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband’s brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. 6 And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. 7 But if the man does not want to take his brother’s wife, then let his brother’s wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband’s brother.’ 8 Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, ‘I do not want to take her,’ 9 then his brother’s wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother’s house.’ 10 And his name shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal removed.’

This was practiced in the book of Ruth which we should find very interesting as that calls this the “Kinsman Redeemer”. The story is a picture of Christ redeeming His Gentile bride. Again, they have no idea what they are talking about, and Jesus puts them in their place. He really makes a fool out of them by showing that in the resurrection that we will be “Like” the angels, eternal and not committed to marriage as here on earth. Now, some use this as their proof text that the angels in Genesis 6 could not procreate. But we need to remember those that did had “Left their first estate”. They became like us, so if anything, Jesus just confirmed

it as we will become like them. I love that Jesus points out that their misunderstanding was that of the power of the Scriptures. There is power In the Word of God as it is written by God Himself. He leaves them with a thought of common sense as the scriptures always refer to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the present tense. This is another lesson that God expects us to have a literal-grammatical interpretation of the scriptures.

Third Test: The Scribes

Matthew 22:34-40

These were not Lawyers like we think. They were the Scribes, those that were responsible for the copying of the Word of God. Because of this they were considered experts in it. We have many like this today. They are experts in the word but fail to know the Person Who wrote it. He is standing right in front of Him! This guy almost gets it...

Mark 12:34

Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him.

And now that they are done Jesus is going to do a little testing of His own. The biggest hang up was they could not wrap their head around God being Jesus' Father.

John 10:30

I and My Father are one

John 10:33

The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

Forth Test: Jesus

Matthew 22:41-45

Boy, He gives them a mind bender. He had already shut them up but now He gives them something to think about. He quotes Psalm 110, another Messianic Psalm...

Psalm 110:1

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

It is a good question and worthy of their consideration as Jesus is the Son of David but also the Son of God. But after it is all said and done Jesus is standing perfect and ready for sacrifice.

Matthew 22:46

And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

John understood this and would write...

The Eternal Son of God

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Have you put your faith in Him?