

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

Ronny F. Wade, Speaker

LAST OF ALL HE SENT HIS SON

In Matthew 21:33-39 we have the parable of the householder and the vineyard. In the parable the householder represents God and the vineyard the privilege of the Jewish nation. The planting of the vineyard refers to God's establishment of Israel as a favored nation, while the husbandman represents the religious leaders of the day. The servants who came to receive the fruits are the prophets whom God sent to Israel. The maltreatment of the servants shows Israel's maltreatment of the prophets of God. The son in the parable stands for God's Son, Jesus, the Christ. The killing of the son is the crucifying of Christ. The fact that the Son was sent last of all, indicates that Christ would be God's last word to man. Taking the vineyard away from the wicked husbandman and giving it to others represents the displacement of Israel by the Gentiles in the church of Christ.

The overall lesson of the parable is evident: The application is to the Jewish nation to whom God had given the promised land and called to be his people. He expected fruit from them, but was disappointed when he received none. He sent prophets, but they were slain. The people went on in their sin. LAST OF ALL HE SENT HIS SON. But they killed him also. Hence Israel was displaced by the Gentiles in the church.

God had many times intervened with man in an attempt to save him from himself. He sent Noah, a preacher of righteousness, to warn the people of impending doom. Sin that began in such a small way in the Garden of Eden, grew until it had covered the whole earth. The world needed a house cleaning. Because Noah was unable to get the people to repent, God sent a flood of waters to cleanse the earth. Out of the flood God saved Noah and his family. But soon after, man began all over again to sin. He had not learned his lesson. The effect of the flood on morals, lasted only a few years.

Then God sent Moses to lead His people out of the slavery of Egypt. In Egypt they had been severely mistreated and abused. Leaving the land was a blessing, one that should have proved God's love to them. However, they were not grateful for their deliverance. They soon were murmuring and complaining. They even worshipped idols. God then, in mercy, gave them a Law to guide and govern them. This law included a system of sacrifice for sin, which should have awakened them to His love and concern for them. However, it did not. They continued in their sin.

Next God sent the prophets. Jeremiah went up and down in the land pleading, begging, and crying for the people to repent and turn to God. He assured them of God's love. But "...the princes were angry with Jeremiah, and they struck him and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe, for they had made that the prison." Jeremiah. 37:15

He then sent Isaiah and his loving invitations. He went to the multitudes and cried out in God's name: "Ho everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." Isa. 55:1 "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isa. 1:18 What happened to Isaiah? according to the Talmud he was sawn asunder, being placed between two boards to expedite it.

Countless others suffered: Zechariah was stoned 2 Chronicles 24:20, Urijah was slain by the sword Jeremiah 26:23, Elijah wandered about in a sheepskin 2Kings 2:13, Micaiah was thrown into prison and fed with bread and water 1Kings 22:27.

Hebrews 11:36-38 says "And others had trials of mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were slain with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, ill treated, (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves, and holes of the earth."

While some of their names have been preserved, many we shall never know until the judgment who suffered such trials for their faith and devotion to God.

But **LAST OF ALL GOD SENT HIS SON.** His final appeal to man. His final message to man. Just what was the message God wanted us to receive? Why did he send his son?

1. God Sent His Son To Reveal His Own Heart.

Through the centuries men had heard and learned of God. Yet they had never see him. The vast majority knew little about him. The never comprehended His great love for them. Perhaps they never understood why his judgments were for their good. In sending Jesus, God said to man "look at Jesus, my son, feel the warmth of his heart. See how he loves and lives and then you will know about me, for me and my son are one. "I and my Father are one" John 10:1

2. God Sent His Son To Be A Picture Of God's Power.

The power of heaven was vested in Christ. He possessed the Spirit of God without measure. His marvelous miracles were designed to demonstrate that power and confirm his standing with God.

Many today have been touched with God's power, the Gospel. It is His power to save according to Romans 1:16. It changes lives. It turns people around and gets them started on the right road.

3. God Sent His Son To Become A Sacrifice For Sin.

Christ, the final sacrifice for sin. Through the years God had required a blood sacrifice, the sacrifice of life. However we learn from Hebrews 10:4 that the blood of animals could not take away sin. Hence Jesus came to redeem us from our sins, by the shedding of his blood. "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." John 1:7 Hebrews 10:12

"But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 10:26 tells us that "If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sin." This means that if we reject Christ and the sacrifice he made in our behalf, we have no hope. There will never be another sacrifice for sin. Christ was the last, the final one.

4. God Will Send His Son Again Someday.

Jesus will come again. It will not be to die, however. It will not be to make an atonement for sin.

One day the heavens will burst open and Jesus will appear in the air. The dead in Christ will rise first, then those who are alive and remaining will be caught up to meet him in the air, and ever be with him.

Not all will meet in the air. The unprepared will be banished to the regions of the doomed. Are you ready to meet Him? Have you obeyed the gospel? Do you believe in Christ (Hebrews 11:6) are you willing to repent of sin (Acts 2:38), have you confessed Christ (Romans 10:9-10, Acts 8:37), and have you been baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Mark 16:16)? If not please do so today, before it is too late.