

## Matthew 21: 44 Falling on a Rock and Having the Rock Fall on You

Introduction: In the parable of the vineyard the Lord mentioned a rock, verse 42. We will take another look at the verse because it will be helpful in understanding our text today.

### I. The rock which the builders rejected, verse 42.

- A. Verse 42 is a quote from Psalm 118:22-23.
- B. In a building project one particular stone was rejected by the workers as unsuitable, but the chief architect or owner chose it to be the chief cornerstone of the building.
  - 1. The cornerstone is the first stone laid: two walls rest upon it.
  - 2. Hence it is the most important stone in the building.
- C. This was a prophecy about the Messiah.
  - 1. The rejection of the stone by the workers was prophetic of the Jewish leaders rejecting the Messiah.
  - 2. Yet God, the chief architect and owner, has made Him the chief cornerstone.
  - 3. All true religion is based upon Jesus Christ as the Messiah.
  - 4. For a man's religion to be acceptable before God, he must trust in Jesus as his Savior.

### II. Falling on the Rock, verse 44a.

- A. "Whosoever falls on this Rock will be broken."
  - 1. He will be bruised: he will be injured.
  - 2. His skin will be broken. (He will bleed.)
  - 3. His shin may be broken. (May break a leg or hip or even an arm.)
  - 4. His chin may be broken. (Or he may have a knot on his head.)
- B. But a fall on the Rock will not necessarily be fatal.
  - 1. He will be banged up but probably will recover.
  - 2. Both skin and bones will heal.
- C. The interpretation of this is that falling on the Rock represents one's failure to accept Jesus as Messiah and trust Him as Savior.
  - 1. He stumbles at the idea of Jesus being the Son of God and being able to save those who trust Him.
  - 2. This is bad: it is very bad: it is very dangerous.
  - 3. But it need not be fatal. If one will only turn and repent and trust in Jesus he can yet be saved.
  - 4. God is gracious in that He gives a man some time in which to change his mind.

### III. The Rock falling on the man, verse 44b.

- A. Any number of things can account for a rock falling on a man. (A rock slide, for instance.)
- B. If a rock big enough to be the cornerstone in a building falls on a man this means instant death.
  - 1. Jesus said it will grind him to powder.
  - 2. This is equivalent to saying "All that will be left is a spot of grease."
  - 3. There is no way he can survive.
- C. The interpretation is that if a man is still rejecting Jesus as his Savior when he dies, then it is too late.
  - 1. The same Jesus who wanted to be his Savior will be his Judge, John 5:22.
  - 2. Jesus will have to pronounce judgment upon him.
  - 3. That judgment will fall upon him like a huge rock. (It will be a crashing blow.)
  - 4. There is no way he can stay out of the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.
  - 5. There is no way he can ever make it to heaven.
  - 6. He will suffer forever and ever.

Conclusion:

1. We know what happened to the Jewish leaders. They fell on the Rock.
2. We know what is yet going to happen to them. The Rock is going to fall on them.
3. The chances are I am talking to somebody today who has heard the gospel before but you still have not trusted Jesus as Savior. That means that you have already fallen on the Rock.
4. What you had better make sure of is that the Rock does not fall on you. Thank God you still have another chance to be saved. Trust Jesus now.

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