

Matthew 21:45-46 Applying the Lord's Word to Self

Introduction: After the chief priests and Pharisees heard the parables, they perceived that He spoke about them. They didn't at first, but it finally dawned on them, "He's talking about us."

I. What the Lord had spoken that applied to them.

- A. In the Parable of the Two Sons Jesus said one son promised to do the father's will, but he didn't.
 - 1. It finally dawned on them, "He's talking about us."
 - 2. The Jews had covenanted to do God's will, but they were not doing the Father's will.
 - 3. They pretended that they were doing God's will, but they weren't.
 - 4. Particularly these Jewish leaders weren't.
- B. In the Parable of the Vineyard Jesus spoke about some wicked husbandmen who rented a vineyard and they refused to pay the rent. Instead they abused the servants and the son who came for the rent.
 - 1. Jesus asked the priests and elders what the landowner would do to those wicked husbandmen.
 - 2. The priests and elders answered that he would destroy the husbandmen and rent the vineyard to somebody else.
 - 3. Then it dawned on them, "Hey! He's talking about us."
 - 4. Then Jesus confirmed that He was. He said that the Kingdom would be taken from them and given to another.
- C. Then Jesus talked about the chief cornerstone which the builders rejected.
 - 1. Again they said, "He's talking about us."
 - 2. He said that when one falls on the Stone he will get hurt and they said, "He's talking about us."
 - 3. Jesus said when the Stone falls on somebody it will grind him to powder and they said, "He's talking about us."

II. How the chief priest and Pharisees reacted.

- A. They should have been shaking in their boots.
 - 1. They should have acknowledged their sin.
 - 2. They should have feared the judgment of God.
 - 3. They should have repented and cried out for God's mercy.
- B. Instead they got angry with the Lord.
 - 1. They were more determined than ever to kill Him.
 - 2. They would have seized Him immediately, but they feared the people.
 - 3. The people did not recognize Jesus as Messiah, but they did recognize Him as a prophet and would not have tolerated Him being harmed.

III. How some today react to the Lord's words.

- A. Some hear God's word and never apply it to themselves.
 - 1. They go on just as if God had never said a word to them.
 - 2. They hear the preaching and think, "It's too bad certain folks weren't here. He would have gotten them told."
 - 3. Did you ever hear of "pitch-fork" religion? The preacher preaches and the people pitch it right on back to somebody else.
 - 4. They never realize that God is talking about them.
- B. Others hear God's word and realize that it is being directed at them and get mad at the preacher.
 - 1. They never think that it is God who directs the sermon right at them.
 - 2. They think the preacher is doing it.
 - 3. So they get mad at the preacher and won't come back.
- C. When God is talking to us and talking about us it is time to listen.

IV. Some specific things from God's word that we should hear and apply to self.

- A. God's word says that all have sinned, Romans 3:23.
 - 1. That really does not sound bad as long as we apply it to everybody else.
(That does not make me any worse than anybody else.)
 - 2. But if I forget about everybody else and apply that to myself it is terrible news.
("I have sinned and come short of the glory of God.")
 - 3. It is a serious thing to sin against Almighty God.
- B. The Bible says that it is appointed to men to die, Hebrews 9:27.
 - 1. That does not sound so bad as long as I apply it to others.
 - 2. People have died all around me all my life: that's nothing new. (Family, friend, neighbors, etc.)
 - 3. But when I realize that God is saying that my appointment is already made that is another matter.
- C. The Bible says that the person who does not trust Jesus as Savior will spend eternity in hell, John 3:18, 36.
 - 1. Even that does not sound so bad when I apply this to somebody else. (Like Judas, Hitler, Castro, etc.)
 - 2. But when I realized that it meant me, that really shook me up.
- D. The Bible says that a sinner who will trust Jesus as his personal Savior will be saved, Romans 10:13; Acts 16:31; John 3:16; John 5:24.
 - 1. That may not sound so great when you apply it to others.
 - 2. But when you realize that God is offering to save you and take you to heaven, that is really something.

Conclusion: Thru His word –

- 1. God is calling for some lost sinner to be saved today.
- 2. He is calling for some Christian to straighten up his life.
- 3. He is calling for some Christian to unite with this church.
- 4. Are you the one He is calling? How will you react to His call?

Preached at Pleasant Hill 1-19-86 A.M.