

The Parables of Christ no. 21
The Mortal Heir and the Mercenary Husbandmen
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Now, this Morning we will continue in our study of the parables, and we will study the parable found in **Matthew 21:33-46** which deals with **The Mortal Heir**. This particular parable that Jesus tells deals with the role of Sonship, and doing the will of the Father even to the point of death.

Let's begin our study this morning by turning to the Book of **MATTHEW 21:33 ¶ Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country** (In other words, He placed the vineyard in the hands of others and then He went off the scene) **34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.** (Now, Jesus is speaking of the prophets here as Stephen gave testimony to in the Book of Acts.

ACTS 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. 54 ¶ When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with [their] teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

Now, notice that they beat one, killed another and stoned yet another. These are the prophets of God, His angels spelled with a small "a" meaning messengers, and these were Jewish prophets, because God never calls His Gentile Bride the name "servants", but the Jews He calls servants. **34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another**

From his sermon called **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 54-0103M pp. 205** William Branham said, *"The servants, are the Jews"...*

and from another of his sermon's entitled **"THE SEAL OF GOD" 54-0514 261** Brother Branham said, *"The Angel said, "Hold it, till we seal the servants," not the Bride. The Gentiles never was a servant; we are sons and daughters. That's the servants, the Jews, Abraham was God's servant. Hallelujah!"*

Now, remember – last week we showed you where brother Branham said that WW1 would have brought on the great Armageddon but the Jews were not in position yet. They were not positionally placed back in the homeland yet, so the Angel stopped the 4 winds from blowing, which the winds represents war and strife.

Now, in getting back to our parable.. **36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.** (again we see more rejection, and more death and hurtful actions by these husbandmen towards God's servants. And now as Jesus tells us this parable He brings it up to the day in which He was living.) **37 But last of all he sent unto them his Son, saying, They will reverence my Son. 38 But when the husbandmen saw the Son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.**

Now, the word seize was translated from the Greek word katecho meaning to restrain, or hinder. Notice these men thought that by putting **out of the way**, the heir, that eventually the father would die off leaving no heir, and thus by restraining the heir process, they would themselves keep possession of the vineyards for themselves for their own little kingdom. Now, this thought is very important in understanding how this parable ties in with the hour that we live, so keep that in the back of your mind as we continue breaking down this parable.

And I am afraid that many hirelings have done the same thing with God's Kingdom today. You know, the ministry is supposed to present the kingdom of God to the people, but I am afraid that there is quite a leftover from Catholicism still among us. They tried to do away with the Kingdom of God and promoted their own kingdom here on this earth. And even among us in this message, we find the same scene unfolding itself over and over again. Men, denying the kingdom of God, His presence here among us, in favor of building up their own little kingdoms.

Now, this word seize that was used of these hirelings, was also used by the Apostle Paul in speaking of those who would hold back the truth from those that would want to hear it.

ROMANS 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.*

Now, a more accurate reading of this scripture would be *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold down or hold back the truth in unrighteousness. Because this Greek word kateko means to suppress or restrain, or hold back.*

And we heard Jesus speak of this very same thing in **MATTHEW 23:13** ¶ *But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*

So we see that there are men who for some reason felt that if they could do away with the First born son, then the kingdom would be theirs for the dividing. Now, I realize that Jesus is telling this story to the men of his age that they might understand what is in store for the Son of God when He came. But we must never forget that Alpha has become Omega and we see this same scenario repeat again in this hour, and they have tried to do away with the Son of God altogether, and many claim themselves to be the incarnation of God on earth today. They preach that God is in His church when God is not in His church, but God is in His word.

Notice in the Book of **HEB 6:4** *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened,* (Now the Greek word for once is hapax pronounced {hap'-ax} and it means – once, one time, or more specifically “once for all”. So this is speaking of the time when the enlightenment comes with a once for all enlightening.

In others, when God Himself comes down with a Shout, which is a Message declaring His Presence and His Godhood. And notice these that have received the once for all enlightenment, have also) *tasted of the heavenly gift.* Now, there is only one heavenly Gift and that is the Holy Ghost Himself who is not only The Gift, but he is also the giver of the gift. These are the ones who have literally tasted or experienced the heavenly gift that God has brought with Him in this hour, and notice it also says that these *were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,* And notice that it is at this time the people will become partakers or companions of this Holy Ghost. Now, the word partakers here is used in reference to the fact that these people will be among those who will actually partake of or walk in fellowship with or be companions to the Holy Ghost. God Himself.

And notice further that we are told these people *5 have tasted the good word of God,* (Notice these are the ones that have experienced the Good Word, the Message, which is the Shout. Now the Good Word is not some denominational viewpoint but these people have actually sat in the meetings and heard the declaration, The Good Word, The Spoken Word, and they have experienced *the powers of the world to come,...*

Now, what would be the world to come except it be speaking of the millennium And when have we seen the millennial power of God in a man like we have seen it in this hour, when the Word spoken created from nothing squirrels. And when no disease was able to stand against it, and when that spoken Word changed the weather, and departed the storms. When wild animals would come for prayer and wild hornets would be turned away by just the Spoken Word, and when a wild man killing beast would lay down in peace like a lamb, the bull that turned from his rage and went to set down. And this generation has seen all of this and yet they still do not believe the doctrine that the man of God brought to our attention.)

And so the Apostle Paul continues by saying, *6 If they shall fall away,* And The same one who is warning of the people falling away also told the church at Thessalonica that there is to come a falling away from the Faith before the Day of our Lord can come.

II THESSALONIANS 2:1 ¶ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except **there come a falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

And in **I TIMOTHY 4:1** This same Apostle warns us that many will depart from The Faith. Not just Faith, but THE Faith. And we know that Faith is a Revelation, and there is only One Faith or One revelation and that is the Doctrine of Christ. Notice **I TIMOTHY 4:1** ¶ *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

Notice they will give heed to doctrines of devils, while denying the One and True doctrine, the Doctrine of Christ.

HEBREWS 6:1 ¶ *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection;* (Now, let me just stop here for a moment and explain this because the Apostle Paul is not telling us that we are to lay aside the doctrine of Christ. In no way, shape or form is he telling the people to lay aside the doctrine of Christ. Because the Apostle John tells us that if we do not have the Doctrine of Christ we do not even have God.) But notice what the apostle Paul is telling us here. He says, *Therefore leaving the **principles of the doctrine of Christ***, and the principle thing is the first or elementary things. And Paul list those elementary things as follows: *not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

Notice, Paul is saying, Look, it is about time that we graduate beyond water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, and the laying on of hands, and having faith towards God, and the foundation or very beginning which is repentance towards God. He tells us these are all good things, but we must go on to perfection... *Therefore leaving the **principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection...*** And then he said, **3 And this will we do, if God permit.** but God did not permit. Because it was not the season for it to happen. And so we had to wait until he end time Elijah ministry where God Himself has come down with a Message where it is God that will restore all things.

MATTHEW 17:10 *And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? 11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.*

Notice in **ACTS 3:19** *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from **the presence** of the Lord; 20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was announced or appointed unto you: 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of **restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. 22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23 And it shall come to pass, [that] every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.*

So we see then there is to come a time when God will restore all things, and in order to do that there must be a once for all enlightenment. And so we read in **HEBREWS 6:4** *For it is impossible for those who were once for all enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 **If they shall fall away***, Brother Branham said, not if they shall fall away, but having fallen away, it is impossible for them *to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame. 7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh off upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 But that which beareth thorns and briers [is] rejected, and [is] nigh unto cursing; whose end [is] to be burned.*

In other words those that fall away are cockleburs, they are briars, they are chaff that the wind driveth away. And then Paul says, **9** ¶ *But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.*

Now, notice **II TIMOTHY 3:7 ¶ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** You see, the once for all enlightenment came and they did not get it. They were never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth.

HEBREWS 10:26 *For if we sin willfully (and sin is unbelief) after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

From his sermon **POSITION IN CHRIST 60-0522M 178** Brother Branham said, *"He that sins willfully after receiving the knowledge of the Truth, there's no more sacrifice." Now, and there's where you'll rise up again, say, "How about that, Brother Branham?" But just remember See?, "who have received the knowledge of the Truth." They never received the Truth; they just received the knowledge of It. See? It's impossible for those who are once enlightened and made partakers of Holy Ghost, tasted the power of the good Word. Like them borderline believers back there.*

Now, I would like to stop here just a moment and say, "what about them border line believers back at Kadesh-Barnea? What was that all about any way?"

Well, God had them cross into the promised land, and they went over there and came back with a bunch of grapes which was the physical evidence that they were in reach of receiving the promise. And what do grapes represent? The stimulation of revelation, and they turned down the revelation of the promise at hand. And what was that promise land to the people? It was for their inheritance. And Brother Branham said our promise today is the Holy Ghost, and he has come to bring us wisdom and revelation in the Knowledge of Himself that we might understand our inheritance.

EPHESIANS 1:17 *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding may be enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

And so the presence of God to us in this hour is to bring an understanding of our inheritance just as the grapes were a physical manifestation to the people of their inheritance in that hour. And so we have our grapes, our physical evidences as well. The picture was taken of the Pillar of Fire, and of the white wigged One, the Supreme Judge in our midst, both showed by physical evidence, that God Himself is here and still they won't believe it. Those pictures are our grapes, our stimulation of revelation, and the people just won't receive it. And so the people turned back then, and they died right there. And today they have turned away although the physical evidence of our Promise is on the walls of almost every message church. which is the Holy Ghost in our midst and yet they turn right away from it. and so as with that generation, they perished and received not the inheritance from God, and so another generation was raised up that would receive it as a token of their covenant with God concerning their inheritance.

Look what else brother Branham says in reference to Hebrews 6...

ANOINTED ONES AT END TIME 65-0725M 233 *"For it is impossible for those which were once enlightened and didn't move on with the Word as it come to pass..." They're dead, gone. "And the thorns and thistles which is nigh unto rejection, whose end is to be burned..." Is that right? Now, hurrying just as quick as I can.*

You see they just don't want the doctrine of Christ. They just can't take it, because they just are not able to come to the knowledge of the Truth. They just can't endure it.

And Paul said, **II TIMOTHY 4:3 ¶ 3** *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;* And what could be more sound or healthy than the doctrine of Christ which John said, if you do not have the doctrine of Christ you don't even have God. *But these, after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, because they having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.* That's stories. They turn down the doctrine in favor of stories. Tell us a story brother Branham, and thus it is impossible for them to come to perfection or maturity.

And the Apostle Paul tells us it will be impossible for those who fall away *to renew them again unto repentance;* (and we know that repentance is a change of the mind, so we see here that those that fall away this time will never be able to come back to a mind that is able to be renewed. And Paul tells us why. He says, *seeing they crucify* (Not having crucified, but present tense "seeing they crucify") *to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

And how do they crucify the Son of God Afresh? By doing away with him altogether. Is not that what they said when they sent Jesus to the cross the first time? Did not they do away with him, or more specifically, they said, "**Away with Him?**"

JOHN 19:13 *When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! 15 But they cried out, "Away with him", "away with him", "crucify him". Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. 16 ¶ Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.*

Now, Notice it is at the time of the once for all enlightenment, "the Shout from God Himself", "His Message", it is at this time that they try to crucify the Son of God afresh. And they try to put away the son of God forever as they did in the alpha ministry of Jesus Christ. They said, away with Him, away with him. In other words, they did not want his presence among them, They did not want his Parousia, presence, and so they shouted apousia, apousia, no presence, no presence, and so today the same thing has manifested itself again, fulfilling Hebrews 6.

And so in getting back to our parable, we pick up at **Mathew 21**, and verse **39**, *And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. 40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. 42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation** (The Greek word for nation here is ethnos and it speaks of the Gentiles that will bring forth fruit in the right season.) **bringing forth the fruits thereof.** That's us. 44 **And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.** 45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.*