

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 5 Issue 10



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

ONE WEEK TO LIVE

3 Fog Cutting Questions (Matthew 21:33-44)

Trent Thomas
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If you knew that you had less than one week to live, what would you do? How would you spend your time? What final words and wisdom would you give to those you love? In our series titled "One Week to Live," we are looking at the final week in the life of Jesus as recorded by Matthew. In the days leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus taught 5 parables. While each parable has its own distinctive meaning, all 5 share a sense of urgency and finality. Jesus wanted His followers to know that things were about to change and that they had to be ready.

Today's message was based on the Parable of The Tenants in Matthew 21:33-44. One of the reasons why good relationships work so well is because those involved have clear expectations of one another. In the Parable of the Tenants, Jesus makes it clear what was expected of God's people. Although the religious leaders of Israel professed to love God and follow His commands, their lack of proper response to Jesus revealed that they neither respected God's authority nor acknowledged His claim on their lives. Tragically, their rejection of Jesus disqualified them for the Kingdom. Trent used this teaching by Jesus to ask what he called "three fog-cutting questions.

The first question was "Where is the Fruit?" There will be a time when the owner of the vineyard comes to collect – is there fruit in your life? Trent used Isaiah 5:1-2 to show who the owner of that vineyard is. This is most likely what Jesus was referring to when he taught this parable. The owner of the vineyard expects his tenants to produce fruit.

The second question was "Who's the Ultimate Authority?" This is a question that every human being must answer. God sent His Son into the world that He Himself created. Jesus brought God's Kingdom to earth. Trent pointed out that the Old Testament passage Jesus quoted is from Psalm 118. Jesus is the Stone, what have you done with Him in your personal life?

The third question was "What's the Outcome?" The reality is that ALL people will be judged. That is unavoidable. Trent reviewed the two judgments that will occur. The first is known as The Bema Seat and will be for believers in Jesus. That judgment will judge the works of believers. The second judgment is known as The Great White Throne Judgment. That judgment will be for people who rejected Jesus. Be assured, there will be an outcome.

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read Matthew 21:33-46--Who is represented in the components of this parable (The Landowner, The Tenants/Farmers, The Vineyard, The servants, and The son)? What are the consequences for rejecting the landowner's son?

Read Isaiah 5:1-2 Who is symbolized by the vineyard in this passage? What is symbolized by the vineyard in the Parable of the Tenant (hint, Matthew 21:43)

Read Psalm 118:22-23 Who is the stone that the builders rejected? How does Jesus use this Psalm in the Parable of the Tenant?

Read II Corinthians 5:10 What is the Bema Judgment? What aspects of a Christian's life will be awarded in the Bema Judgement?

Read Revelation 20:11-12 What are the tools of judgment in The Great White Throne Judgment? How is rejecting Christ characterized in The Great White Throne Judgment?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Is there fruit in your life to show that you are a follower of Jesus?

Have you determined who the ultimate authority in your life is?

If your life ended today, what would be your outcome?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

When you meet with your family and/or small group this week, review the parable in Matthew 21:33-46. Discuss the various characters in the story. Which part are you playing in that parable?

KEY POINT:

A successful life consists of accepting Christ as Lord and bearing fruit for Him.

RESOURCES:

[One-Year New Testament Bible](#) (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)

“The Parables--Understanding the Stories Jesus Told” by Simon Kistemaker