

Matthew 22:1-22 – Parables and Taxes

In a series of parables about the Kingdom of God, Yeshua speaks to the Chief Priests, elders of the people, Pharisees, and Herodians on a variety of topics about a father and his sons; obedience and disobedience; John the Baptist; prostitutes; tax collectors; and then, a landowner and tenants.

The evil and wickedness of the people led Yeshua to speak to them in parables so He could tell them about themselves without having to directly tell them or call them out, but to speak in such a way that they would draw the conclusions about themselves.

Yeshua uses local language, events, and scenarios the people would have been familiar with in order for the parables to have their most profound effect. In this portion of Matthew, Yeshua spoke to those who inquired of Him, in the presence of His disciples, about a wedding banquet and paying taxes to Caesar.

In this Teaching, Yeshua exposes the hypocrisy and wickedness of the religious leaders. Consider the following for the sake of understanding the message of the parable:

- The King - YeHoVaH
- The Son - Yeshua
- Invited but would not come - Rulers, Religious Leaders, and those who rejected Yeshua
- The servants - the Prophets
- More servants - more Prophets

Mt 22:1 And Yeshua answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

The “them” were the Chief Priests and Pharisees mentioned in the previous verses.

Mt 21:45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

Mt 21:46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

The Chief Priests’ and Pharisees’ fear of the multitude delayed their plot to lay hands on Yeshua. Knowing their plot and their restraints, Yeshua continued to speak to them in another parable.

Mt 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,
Mt 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Mt 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

Mt 22:5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

Luke wrote:

Lk 14:18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

Lk 14:19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

Lk 14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Mt 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

The prophets were treated in a similar manner by the people of YeHoVaH.

Mt 22:7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Yeshua's parables spoke to historical events of Israel's past.

Isaiah prophesied before the Babylonian captivity. Isaiah prophesied:

2Ki 20:16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD.

2Ki 20:17 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.

2Ki 20:18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Jeremiah prophesied before and during the Babylonia captivity and was carried off into Babylon. Jeremiah wrote:

Jer 39:6 Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.

Jer 39:7 Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

Jer 39:8 And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.

Jer 39:9 Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

Jer 39:10 But Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

Not all of the people of Judah in Israel were taken captive into Babylon. The poor, the weak, and needy were left in the land to work the vineyards and the fields.

Yeshua continued:

Mt 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Mt 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Luke wrote:

Lk 14:21 So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

Lk 14:22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

Lk 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out unto the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

Lk 14:24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Mt 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

Mt 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

Mt 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Here, you have a guest who came as he was, without putting on the proper attire for the wedding banquet. All the other guests had on the proper garments. This suggests, because of their status, the garments may have been provided for them upon arrival.

Mt 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mt 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Mt 22:15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

Mt 22:16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

The Pharisees' disciples and the Herodians attempt to trap Yeshua. Here we see the Pharisees had disciples. Herodians were those in allegiance with Herod the king.

Herod surnamed "Antipas", was the son of Herod the Great and Malthace, a Samaritan woman. After the death of his father, he was appointed by the Romans tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea. Herod had John the Baptist beheaded because John confronted Herod about his marriage to his brother Philip's wife.

Mt 14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Yeshua,

Mt 14:2 And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him.

Mt 14:3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

Herod, the Herodians, and many of the Jews were in allegiance with Caesar and tried to pressure Pilate, who had been appointed by Caesar, to persecute Yeshua. But Pilate wanted no part of their scheme.

Jn 19:12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

The Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians were some murderous people who would destroy anyone who opposed or resisted their teachings, practices, and commandments. They plotted to destroy Yeshua and attempted to bait and trap Him in public to give them a reason and convince the people that He deserved to be killed. This is manifest throughout the Gospel narratives.

Mt 22:17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?
Mt 22:18 But Yeshua perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

Yeshua's use of words to define and describe the Pharisees, the disciples they sent, and the Herodians, is telling.

Wickedness – 4189 πονηρία ponia {pon-ay-ree'-ah}

Meaning: 1) depravity, iniquity, wickedness 2) malice 3) evil purposes and desires

Usage: AV - wickedness 6, iniquity 1; 7

Hypocrites – 5273 ὑποκριτής hupokrites {hoop-ok-ree-tace'}

Meaning: 1) one who answers, an interpreter 2) an actor, stage player 3) a dissembler, pretender, hypocrite

Usage: AV - hypocrite 20; 20

Those types of people exist today in our religious circles.

Mt 22:19 Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

Mt 22:20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

Mt 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Mt 22:22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.