

Lesson 44 Matthew 22 1-46 (16) Jesus teaches the solidarity of the eternal purpose of God

Jesus speech reported in summary and synopsis.

"*Having given His answer* (Greek *αποκριθεις*) Jesus spoke some parables" This classic passive participle of which I have traced at least 10 instances works on a synopsis of what Jesus said. The Holy Spirit leads Matthew to select parables which Jesus taught to drive home His message.

The parable of the Wedding Banquet

The kingdom of heaven is like a king who calls his invitees. His servants bade them "come" stressing the "sacrifice" that made the feast so special. Some went to the fields, some to their emporiums. Others apprehended the servants insulted and violated them. He sent expeditionary forces and destroyed the murderers and their city. He then sent to the country's exits where foreigners would embark for home (Greek *διεξοδος*) and the seats were filled. The king appeared to take stock of the guests. He found one without a wedding garment. He had him bound and cast into the dark (Greek *εξοτερος* meaning "esoteric" or "uninitiated"-because though carelessness the garment of righteousness which the king provided was not worn) The parable fits like a shoe the city's negative reaction to Christ and its later devastation. The visit of the king is almost by the way but it relates to judgement and the end times.

Taxes-trap No.1

The Pharisees or zealots begin overtly to work for Jesus' downfall. They ask whether "Caesar's tax" should be paid. Jesus called for a denarius, pointed to the bust of Caesar and said, "Render to Caesar what is his by right and to God what belongs to God. He had effectively taken Caesar from his pedestal for he claimed to be "Deus"(God) and had given Yahweh honour. He had sprung the trap

Marriage and the after-life Trap No.2

The Sadducees put what may have been a legal fiction to Jesus based on Deuteronomy 25.5 and the law of Levirate marriage. A woman married the six brothers of her husband in turn and the men like her husband all predeceased her. "Whose wife will she be in the resurrection?" they ask hardly able to contain their glee at constructing such a conundrum. Jesus instantly retorted, "You neither know scripture nor the degree of power that is Gods" "In resurrection there is no marriage-human beings live like angels" and Moses said, "I am the God of each patriarch" so that they remain alive. Jesus had sprung the second trap

The greatest commandment Trap No.3

The last man to go down was a lawyer. His test was, "Which is the great commandment?" Jesus answered from Deuteronomy 6.5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart soul and mind" adding "The second is "You shall love your neighbour as yourself"(Leviticus 19.18) which obliquely rumbled the heart of this antagonist who had no love for Jesus. All else in the law and prophets is "devoted to" or "suspended from" these principles.

A Question for the Pharisees

From Psalm 110.1 which was destined to be the psalm allied to the risen LORD from now on Jesus quoted these words, "The LORD said to my LORD sit at My right hand till I make your enemies your footstool" and then asked, "How is David His heir if he calls Him his LORD? David is a servant and the answer is that 'the ONE who would be raised to the right hand of the Father is the Son and Heir' Thus scripture

From paper to practice



- 1 Did Israel's rejection derail God's plan?
- 2 Could Caesar or Roman power derail God's plan?
- 3 Do alternate religions intellectual or legal power derail God's plan?
- 4 The unfathomable power and wisdom of God lies behind the groundwork of eternal life.