

LESSON PLAN

WARNING TO THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST

Matthew 21:33 – 22:14

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 John 5:12 - “He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life.”

Lesson Aim: Teach children that they must receive Jesus to have eternal life.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Jack’s friend asked him if he wanted to go to the circus with him and his Dad. Jack wanted to go to the circus, so he went to his father and asked permission to go. It so happened that Jack had a younger brother named Tom, who also wanted to go to the circus. Jack’s father thought for a while and then said to Jack: “You can go to the circus with your friend and his father if you take your brother with you; otherwise, you will have to stay home.” Jack liked Tom and gladly decided to take his brother with him to the circus. If you were Jack, what would you have done? (Let them briefly discuss what they would do in the same situation.)

Now, let me give you another problem to think about. God says you are invited to go to Heaven, but you cannot go without Jesus Christ. Now Jesus is a wonderful Person. I would think all people would love Jesus and want Him to be with them. However, that is not always true. Some people do not want Jesus to be with them. They love their sins and have friends that love their sins. They would not enjoy their sins if Jesus were with them. Therefore, they never ask Jesus to come into their lives and save them because they do not want to repent and stop doing their sins. Will they be able to go to Heaven without Jesus? Our memory verse tells us what a great difference it makes whether or not we have Jesus.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse is found in 1 John 5:12. The verse tells us that there are two groups of people: those that have the Son of God (Jesus Christ) and those that do not have the Son of God. Those who have the Son have eternal life and will go to Heaven, but those who do not have the Son do not have eternal life. That means they will go to Hell. God wants you to know this because He loves you. He wants you to receive His Son so you can enjoy all the things that He has prepared for those who love Him and His Son. This is a very important verse to memorize so you will never forget it.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today we will teach you the meaning of two parables that Jesus told.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings, so there are many figures of speech in them. Figures of speech are difficult for some younger children to understand, so you will have to tell the story in simple plain words that the children can easily understand. Therefore, we suggest that you tell a parable as a story and give a straight forward explanation as to what Jesus meant by it. Then tell the children that this story reminds you of something that was going to happen to Jesus. Children in grades 5-6 are better able to handle figures of speech, but be careful that you keep it as simple as possible for best results. The main thought to emphasize in both of these parables is the danger of rejecting Christ. Be sure the children grasp this truth. If it is too much to teach both parables, just teach one parable. Maybe you will find the first parable is easier to teach.

I. The First Parable - Matthew 21:33-46

A. Parable of Workers in the Vineyard

A man who owned a vineyard (large garden that grew grapes) was taking a long trip, so he found some farmers to take care of his vineyard while he was gone. They would divide the profits from the grapes when the crop was harvested. The farmers betrayed the owner and would not give any of the profits from the grapes when the owner sent servants to collect his share. Finally, the owner sent His Son and they killed him. What should he do to these wicked farmers? He will destroy them and find other farmers that will be faithful to him.

B. Identifications in the Parable

Householder (owner of the large garden) – God

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Vineyard (large garden for growing grapes) – Israel, God's chosen nation
Hedge – Law of Moses which kept Israel separated from the Gentile nations
Winepress – God expected spiritual fruit from Israel
Tower – watchful care of God to protect it
Husbandmen (tenant farmers) – Israel's leaders who rejected Christ and had the Romans kill Him
Far country – Heaven
Time of fruit – win people in other nations to the worship of God
Servants – Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist and the Disciples
Son – Jesus Christ
Other husbandmen (farmers) – Christians or Israelites that repent in the future (Rev 7)

C. Interpretation of the Parable

This story teaches the responsibility of Israel's leaders to honor God and faithfully serve Him. The leaders were also responsible to receive and honor His Son, Jesus Christ. They did not do it, but instead they killed Him. As a result God destroyed Israel as a nation and scattered its people all over the world. In the future God will send His Son again and this time they will receive Him. Then God will bless them. In the meantime God is looking to the churches to do His will and to receive His Son. Those who do will be given eternal life and many rich blessings. But those that do not do His will and reject His Son will not have life with God, but will be separated from Him forever. They will suffer worse than the Israelite people that have been scattered and hated all over the world.

D. Connection of the Stone to the Parable

The stone that Jesus mentioned after the first parable (21:42) was from a prophecy about Him (Ps 118:22-23). He was the stone that was rejected by the builders (Israel), but later will be the **cornerstone**, the most important stone of a building. It is a reference to Jesus being the King of Israel in the future. In the meantime Jesus will be like a **stumbling stone** to those who do not receive Him as their Savior (21:44a). Is anything good after it is broken? No! It is thrown away, if it cannot be fixed. And He will be a **grinding stone** to those who actively oppose Him (21:44b). They will suffer greatly and be cast into Hell.

WE: When we have Jesus, we do not have to worry about the judgment of sinners. If you do not have Jesus, you should be very worried. You will suffer forever in Hell. Have you received Jesus?

II. The Second Parable - Matthew 22:1-14

A. The Parable of the Wedding Feast

A king prepared a feast for the marriage of his son. He sent his servants to call his guests to the wedding feast, but they refused to come. He sent other servants to call his guests, but they mistreated his servants and killed some of his servants. Their action enraged the king and he destroyed them and burned their city. Then he sent his servants into the streets to invite both good and bad to come that his banquet hall might be filled. He provided wedding clothes for all of his guests, but one guest came without wearing his wedding clothes and he was cast out into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth

B. Identifications in the Parable

King – God
Son – Jesus Christ
Feast – marriage supper in Christ's Millennial Kingdom
Servants – John the Baptist and apostles
Twice invited guests – Jews that rejected Christ before and after his crucifixion
Invited guests that are destroyed – Israelites that killed John the Baptist, Christ and the apostles
City (burned up) – Jerusalem destroyed and temple burned in A.D. 70.
Last invited guests – Gentiles
Guest without wedding clothes – professing believer that never received Christ's righteousness
Outer darkness – Hell
Weeping and gnashing of teeth – emotional and physical suffering

C. Interpretation of the Parable

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God will celebrate the marriage of His Son with a great feast in the Millennial Kingdom (Rev 19:7-9). Israelites were invited to the Kingdom of Christ by John the Baptist and by His disciples, but the leaders of Israel refused to receive Jesus as their King. Instead they called for Rome to crucify Him. God in mercy sent another invitation by the apostles and early Christians to Israel to receive Christ as their Savior and King. Again they refused and they killed many of the apostles and believers because they were followers of Christ. So God moved Titus, a Roman general, to destroy Jerusalem and most of its people and burn its temple. The remaining Israelite people were scattered all over the world. Then God called the Gentile people, good and bad, to come to His banquet. The banquet represents the joy and blessings that all believers will experience that receive Jesus as their Savior and King. God will provide a robe of righteousness to all who receive Jesus as their Savior. However, some will try to enter Christ's Kingdom because they have done many good works (Mt 7:21-23), but they will not be allowed to stay and enjoy all that God has prepared for those that love Him and His Son. Instead they will be cast into outer darkness (Hell) where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Many are called, but few are chosen" (22:14). God calls many to come and enjoy the privileges and blessings of being with His Son in His Kingdom, but few receive His invitation. Only those who receive His invitation are chosen.

WE: We have been called by God to accept Jesus as our Savior. We are chosen if we have received Jesus Christ, and we will be able to live forever with Him. If we do not have Jesus, we will be separated from God and will be punished forever in outer darkness.

BE (for Action): If you have Jesus Christ, you are safe. If you do not have Him, you are lost. Do you have Him? If you do not have Jesus Christ, you are like the bad farmers, or you are like the people who rejected the invitation to the wedding feast, or you are like the man who went to the wedding without the white wedding garment. These kinds of people are lost. They will never be allowed in Christ's Kingdom. If you do not have Jesus Christ, but you would like to have Him as your Savior, you can have Him right now. (Have your class bow their heads and ask those who want to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior to lift their hands so you can deal with those who want to receive Jesus Christ. Do this immediately after class is dismissed.)