



The Gospel of Matthew

Bible Study – Examination, Exposition, and Application

Chapter 21:33-22:33 – Telling the Truth on Tough Topics

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Chapter 21:33-22:33: Telling the Truth...

- ▶ V. 33-46 – The Parable of the Vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7)
 - ▶ The Vineyard – plants, fences, digs a winepress, built a watchtower; leased it to tenants and went away
 - ▶ Sharecrop Tenants refuse to pay and assault “his slaves”
 - ▶ Beat, killed, and stoned; Master sent more messengers
 - ▶ Ambassador Son: seized, ousted, and murdered the heir
 - ▶ Answer: execute justice and enlist others (Ps 118:22-23)
 - ▶ Punishment for the wild (rebellious) grapes of wrath: disinherited and
 - ▶ Chief priests and Pharisees offended by the Prophet

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Chapter 21:33-22-33: Telling the Truth...

- ▶ 22:1-14 – The Parable of the Marriage Feast
 - ▶ Feast honoring the Son – seven-day celebration
 - ▶ Servants sent to collect the guests; unwilling and rebellious (21:34)
 - ▶ Army sent to destroy the “murderers” and burned their city (Babel)
 - ▶ Unworthy guests replaced with “everyone” (good and bad)
 - ▶ Unwelcome guest – not wearing a wedding robe; expelled
- ▶ V. 15-22 – Paying Taxes to Caesar
 - ▶ Herodians – secular sect supporting the royal family (royalists)
 - ▶ Paying taxes – lawful? sectarian vs. separatists; hypocrites
 - ▶ Taxes (L. *ager*): Land (1% value) + Trade + Portoria (customs 2.5%) + Equestre (orphans and widows for upkeep of horses) + Marriage (unmarried men and woman of childbearing age, except Vestal Virgins) + Inheritance (5%) + Sales (1%) + *Fiscus Judaicus* (2 denarii for Jews) + Poll Tax (exceptions) + Slaves (5% for freeing a slave; 4% sales tax + customs 1.5 denarii) + State Lands (commons)

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Chapter 21:33-22-33: Telling the Truth...

- ▶ V. 23-33 – The Marriage Question
 - ▶ Sadducees – Non-Resurgent (L. *resurgere*: “rise again”)
 - ▶ Roman view: Marriage - arranged contract; legitimacy
 - ▶ Jewish view: *Kiddushin* divine initiated bonding
 - ▶ Hypothetical story: seven childless brothers; Deut. 25:5 – Levirate Marriage based on Gen. 38:1-11
 - ▶ Issue Celestial matrimony (Gk/Rn/Pagan eschatology)
 - ▶ v. 29 Jesus' answer: marriage is corporeal/temporal; resurrection:
 - ▶ Humans are in a metamorphosized state (like the angels)
 - ▶ Biblical justification for the Resurrection (Ex. 3:6)
 - ▶ God's act of fulfilling the Divine plan for Creation

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