

Sermon Reflections

The Rejected Stone (Matthew 21:33-46)

Summary: Don't reject or neglect Jesus. But, see and keep Him as your priceless treasure.

Three Commands that will raise up our treasuring of Christ in our heart.

1. See Your Persisting Guilt (vv. 33-41)

- The Jewish leaders couldn't see their guilt. They were blind to the truth (Jesus!) that was standing right in front of them.
 - Can you see your guilt? Why is it important for believers to actively search their lives to find guilt? What should you do when you recognize that guilt in your life?
 - If we get complacent and don't seek out our guilt of sin, then we will be just as blind as the Jewish leaders. What are the dangers/pitfalls for a believer if they become complacent in rooting out guilt in their lives?

2. Hope in His Surprising Plan (v. 42)

- In v.42 Jesus quotes directly from Psalm 118:22: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus (the cornerstone) but this was God's plan all along and this brings hope even for the greatest of sinners. Jesus knew that in a short time, these leaders would turn Him over to be crucified. What greater sin could there be than killing the very Son of God? And yet, Jesus was telling the Jewish leaders that there is hope, even for them, if they would just repent. Does this knowledge, that there is hope even for the very men that send Jesus to His death, bring you encouragement? Why?

3. Avoid His Devastating Judgment (vv. 43-46)

- The hope we saw in the previous bullet point is only possible for those who repent. If we repent, then we will have changing faith. A faith that confesses, that repents, that obeys – if your faith doesn't do this then you aren't a kingdom person. Verse 44 is clear that if you aren't a kingdom person, then you are under God's judgment, being broken to pieces or crushed. Why is it important for us to understand the wrath of God's judgment? How does that understanding affect your view of what Jesus did for you on the cross?
- You can avoid judgment if you stand with Christ and confess. Will you resolve to search out your persistent guilt and repent before a holy and righteous God?