

## The Bible According to Jesus part 6

"Who gave you authority?" the religious leaders asked Jesus. Jesus asked them to first tell Him who gave John authority. Then he told them a few parables to help them get the point. Remember the question is the authority of Jesus.

*Matt 21:33-44 (NIV) 33 "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. 35 "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. 38 "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."*

Israel was often referred to as a vineyard. Of course, Israel belongs to Jehovah. When it is time to bring out the fruit and give the owner what is due him, the ones who manage the vineyard decide to rebuff and even kill the servants of the owner. The servants are the prophets who asked Israel to give God what was due Him, worship, praise, and first place in their lives. When they would not receive the owner He sent His Son. Surely they will respect Him. But they wanted what was due the owner. They wanted worship, praise, and first place for themselves, so they killed the Son. Then Jesus lets them announce their own judgement by asking them what should be done to those men. Now we come to the Scripture Jesus quoted. What is it?

*Psalms 118:19-29 (NIV) 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. 20 This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. 21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. 22 The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; 23 the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. 25 O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. 27 The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. 28 You are my God,*

*and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. 29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

I included the verses around it because it was so fitting to the day and situation Jesus was in. Who is the gate? Jesus! See John 10. He is our gate of righteousness. No one comes to the Father but through Him. The gate of the LORD, or we could say the Lord who is the gate, is the One we may enter in. He remembered us and became our salvation. Now the verse begins that Jesus quoted. All of those men probably had memorized these verses. If there were any potential believers there, their minds could have gone over these verses to see all that Jesus was implying. Jesus quoted verse 22,23 about Himself. He is the capstone. He is the completion of the promises and the fulfillment of the plan of God. God placed Him there and gave Him that authority. It should be marvelous in our eyes. We should be rejoicing in that day. Instead they were trying to find ways to bring Him down or kill him.

He made His light to shine upon us. That reminds them of the Isaiah prophecies about the Messiah. The Triumphal Entry, described here, had just happened the day before! Jesus did enter in and go up to the altar. When Solomon's temple was completed all the people sang, "The Lord is good and His mercy endures forever" and the glory of God filled the Temple. Jesus representing the glory of God had returned to the Temple but they did not recognize Him and rejected Him just as this passage prophesied. Jesus quoted the passage to help the seekers see and the to silence those who rejected Him. It was His Father who gave Him authority. The Temple is His regardless of whether they will accept His rights or try to steal them by killing Him.

During those last few days in the Temple, the groups took turns trying to trip up Jesus and make Him look bad. Now it was the Sadducees' turn.

*Matt 22:23-33 (NIV) 23 That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. 24 "Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him. 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. 27 Finally, the woman died. 28 Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?" 29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. 31 But about the resurrection of the dead--have you not read what God said to you, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." 33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.*

Jesus quoted God saying He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then He says the obvious, "God is not the God of the dead but of the living." Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are alive in heaven. Simple logic says that their theory of no resurrection of the

dead is not according to Scripture. Throw out the doctrine or through out the Scripture, but an honest mind cannot cling to both. Jesus used Scripture to expose false teaching.

The Pharisees take another try since their Sadducees had been silenced. They often debated about the most important passage. There was an effort to try to reduce the complexity of the Law by keeping the most important one.

*Matt 22:34-40 (NIV) 34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Jesus cleared up the question for them and gave them some insight into the substance of the Gospel. You cannot love God without the life of Christ. His life demonstrated a love for God that far surpassed theirs. His love for man was obvious in His actions and teachings. Jesus not only gave them the answer but His life demonstrated it. Any one trying to live like that would realize they need His life to live those commands.

Jesus needed to minister to those who were hungry for the truth so He uses a Scripture to close their mouths. This is Jesus' most quoted Scripture from Psalm 110:1. *Matt 22:41-46 (NIV) 41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied. 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, 44 "'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" 45 If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" 46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.*

In Hebrew, the passage says Jehovah says to my Adonai... or the Eternal One says to my Master... Since David is the author and calls him his Master (the Jews recognize this Master to mean the Messiah) how can he be his son. The Messiah was to come from the lineage of David. How could a descendent be the Master of a father? They believed the older was the greater. Answer: He is the Ancient of Days! He is God incarnate. It got them off His back so He could have time to teach during His last days, for they knew they were out of their league when He asked a question like this. They were afraid of being humiliated. It is written for us who understand so that we might see the truth of the prophetic text of David. How wonderfully Jesus wielded the sword of the Word. He instructed those who were hungry to learn and silenced the proud with the same sword. Oh, that we might handle the Word like Jesus by letting Him quicken Scriptures to us. Study to show yourselves approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.