

Easter

You Cannot Redeem Yourself!

Matthew 21:1-11

March 26, 2023 – Bob Hightchew

Introduction

- General lessons we learn from the Bible:
 - We cannot cover our shame – God must do that – **Genesis 3:21**
 - We cannot set ourselves free – Only God can break the chains of bondage – **Exodus 7-14**
 - Jesus' first Triumphal Entry – **Luke 2:13-14**
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1. What is the Situation?

- a. **Exodus 12** – The Passover
- b. **Matthew 21:1-9**
- c. The blood of animals could not atone for sin, it merely pushed them back for a year.
The Passover was a reminder:
 - i. Sin brought death into the world.
 - ii. Sin caused the shedding of innocent blood.
- d. Sin brought absolute bondage and death.
 - i. The only way to be free is by the Hand of God.
 - ii. The only way to be spared is to be marked by the Blood of the Unblemished Lamb.
- e. **Genesis 3:15**
- f. Since the Garden, we have been waiting for the Messiah to set us free.
- g. What is our situation in 2023?
 - i. Sanity ... Individual Thinking ... and Truth are public enemy number one.
- h. Three major reasons why:
 - i. No desire to know the True God or His Ways
 - ii. Narcissistic Thinking
 - iii. Pride
- i. Two kinds of people:
 - i. The Saved
 - ii. The Lost
- j. The Lost have three categories:
 - i. Those who think they are saved.
 - ii. Those who are genuine in their desire to be changed by God.
 - iii. Those who could care less about God and His Ways.
- k. The situation of the world is a mess!
- l. **Matthew 24:11-13**

2. What is the Fix?

- a. The Messiah is the fix for our broken relationship with God.
- b. If we live in opposition against the Morals, Precepts, and Principles of God, there is a punishment.
- c. In a world of “Safe Spaces” that seems so mean and terrible.
- d. Even in our sin, because of God’s unfathomable love, He made a way to redeem us.
- e. **Psalm 51:1-2**
- f. **Isaiah 1:8**
- g. **Isaiah 7:14**
- h. **Matthew 1:22-23**
- i. **John 1:29**
- j. **John 3:16**
- k. What kind of Love does God have to do this? – **1st Corinthians 13:4-8**
- l. **The Fix –**

3. What is the Mission?

- a. There are two areas for the mission:
 - i. Mission for the Messiah
 - ii. Mission for us
- b. Jesus’ Mission:
 - i. Step out of Eternity and into our world
 - ii. The full wrath of God for every man, woman, and child – past, present and future, would be placed on Him.
 - iii. He will take our place – He will pay our penalty for sin.
 - iv. Can you imagine that burden?
- c. **Hebrews 12:1-3**
 - i. What joy could be found in a Roman crucifixion?
 - ii. The joy of knowing, we could now come back home.
- d. Our Mission:
 - i. All we have to do is respond to His invitation to be saved.
 - ii. We respond to His Terms of Pardon.
 - iii. What could possibly keep us from this free gift?
- e. The thinking of Pharaoh keeps us from it:
 - i. No desire to know the True God or His Ways
 - ii. Narcissistic Thinking
 - iii. Pride
- f. Our Mission – To be Saved in Jesus Christ, and then carry that message to the world.
- g. **Philippians 2:5-11**