

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a sandy, light-brown dirt road with visible tire tracks leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. The road is flanked by sparse, low-lying desert shrubs. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains rises against a pale, hazy sky. The overall tone is arid and desolate.

The Gospel of Matthew

WHY DID THE KING COME BUT NOT THE KINGDOM?

II. THE KINGDOM HAS NOT 13:54-28:20

6. The Formal Presentation and Rejection of the King, 19:3 – 25:46

(Matthew 21:12-22:14 Pt. 1)

“Why the Kingdom is NOT Yet”

Outline –

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17
2. Cursing the issue vv. 18-22
3. Confronting the issue vv. 23-27
4. The conduct of the religious leaders vv. 28-32
5. The consequence of their conduct vv. 33-46
6. The judgment vv. 1-14

Outline –

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17
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1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17

A. Determining what is being said:

➤ Jesus cleanses the temple v. 12

1) Went in

2) Drove out

3) Overturned

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17

A. Determining what is being said:

➤ Jesus rebukes the blasphemers v. 13

- He said to them (cf. Jer. 7:1-11)
- Their hope was in the temple
- Note the emphasis by Matthew
- This is preview of future cleansing (Mal. 3:1-4)

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17

A. Determining what is being said:

- Jesus cleanses the temple v. 12
- Jesus rebukes the blasphemers v. 13
- Jesus heals the blind and the lame v. 14
- Tensions rise among leaders v. 15

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17

A. Determining what is being said:

- Leaders want Jesus to rebuke crowd v. 16
 - The crowd's cry is Messianic identification
 - Jesus accepts: “yes”
 - Jesus then quotes Psalm 8:2 (Messianic)

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17

A. Determining what is being said:

- Jesus leaves the city and stays in Bethany v. 17
 - “left them” καταλιπὼν = to leave behind, abandon, forsake.
 - It appears Jesus is rejecting this generation of Israel because of the leadership (cf. Mt. 16:4)

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17

B. Determining what to do:

- The Messiah came to exemplify His temple cleansing ministry
- The temple was being used for common (related to the word for blasphemy) usage.
- The majority of Israel placed their hope in the temple but not the One Who indwells it. (cf. Mt 23:16-22)
- Do WE ever lose focus of the REAL person to be worshipped?

Outline –

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17
2. Cursing the issue vv. 18-22
3. Confronting the issue vv. 23-27

2. Cursing the issue vv. 18-22

A. Determining what is being said:

- Jesus returns hungry v. 18
- The barren fig tree is cursed v. 19

2. Cursing the issue vv. 18-22

A. Determining what is being said:

➤ The barren fig tree is cursed v. 19
(cf. Deut. 28-30)

- The fig tree represents Israel
- That generation was unfruitful (no early fruit)
- Thus, they were liable for judgment.
- But it also pictures the covenantal relationship:
 - 1) Blessing for obedience Deut. 28:1, 4, 11
 - 2) Cursed for disobedience Deut. 28:15, 18

2. Cursing the issue vv. 18-22

A. Determining what is being said:

- Jesus returns hungry v. 18
- The barren fig tree is cursed v. 19
- The disciples marvel v. 20
- Instruction on faith in practice v. 21
- Instruction on faith in prayer v. 22
 - It is the lack of faith in Israel that causes judgment
 - The lack of faith = the lack of God's power being demonstrated

2. Cursing the issue vv. 18-22

B. Determining what to do:

- The fig tree had appearance of fruit (leaves) but no actual fruit
- Israel is the unfruitful fig tree
- Jesus curses the tree, signifying that generation
- The cause for lack of fruit was their unbelief
- God's kingdom power was unavailable because of unbelief
- Do we miss opportunities to see God's power because of unbelief?

Outline –

1. Cleansing the issue vv. 12-17
2. Cursing the issue vv. 18-22
3. Confronting the issue vv. 23-27

3. Confronting the issue vv. 23-27

A. Determining what is being said:

- The religious leaders confront Jesus v. 23
 - 1) “By what authority are You doing these things?”
 - 2) “Who gave You this authority?”

3. Confronting the issue vv. 23-27

A. Determining what is being said:

- Jesus agrees to answer if they answer vv. 24-27
 - Jesus' agreement v. 24
 - John's baptism "from heaven or men?" v. 25
 - They reason among themselves
 - 1) If... from heaven v. 25b
 - 2) If... from men v. 26
 - 3) Their answer: "We don't know" v. 27a

What is Jesus doing when He switches from clear instruction to parables AGAIN?

Summary/Application:

- The issue causing unbelief was the false hope in the temple.
- The issue causing unbelief were the religious leaders.
- This generation will not see the kingdom.



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