

Faithful Is Fruitful

Text : **Matthew 21: 28-32 ; Luke 13: 1-9**

A. What is your vision of God ?

S#1.

S#2.

1. Some view Him like one of the wrathful Greek gods throwing lightning bolts.
2. Some view Him as a kindly grandfather who has endless patience with their folly.
3. Some view God as a vindictive judge constantly looking for reasons to condemn.

B. What is your view of Jesus ?

S#3.

1. Artists picture Jesus as a timid, effeminate man. (*Couldn't have attracted following*)
2. Some view Him as a hippy-type rebel against the status quo .. peace, love and ...
3. There are even those who view Him as a giver of law who demands justice.

S#4.

C. Your view of God affects your attitude toward Him, His word & His plan for you

1. My parents disciplined me, but grandpa never did. God will understand I'm weak.
2. I can never let my guard down or God will find a reason to condemn me.
3. As long as I do more good than bad God will accept me.

S#5.

D. The way you view Jesus affects the way you live and function in His kingdom.

1. Jesus is a law giver so as long as I follow the rules, I'm okay with Him.
2. Jesus emphasized love so as long as I love other people I am okay with Jesus.
3. Jesus helped the poor and helpless so as long as I do good to others, I'm okay.

What is a right view to have of God and of His Son, Jesus?

S#6.

I. God is the sovereign ruler of the universe.

S#7.

A. God rules by right of ownership.

S#8.

1. The first two chapters of the bible tell us how we are the creation of God.
2. The scriptures explain that God has never surrendered ownership of His creation.

a. **Lev. 25: 23** – **The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently,** S#9.
for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me.

b. **Psa. 24: 1** – The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it. (*God owns all people*)

3. The universe was created through Jesus and for His benefit.

S#10.

Col. 1: 16 – **For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth,**
visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities
— all things have been created through Him and for Him.

B. God also rules by right of power and position.**S#11.**

1. As the prophet David wrote :

Psa. 103: 19-22 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And **S#12.**
His sovereignty rules over all. **20** Bless the Lord, you His angels,
 Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of
 His word! **21** Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You who serve
 Him, doing His will. **22** Bless the Lord, all you works of His, in all
 places of His dominion; Bless the Lord, O my soul!

2. God's power and sovereignty were placed into the hands of Jesus.

S#13.

- a. **Matt. 28:18** – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,
 " All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- b. **Eph. 1: 1-21** – what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who **S#14.**
 believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength
 of His might **20** which He brought about in Christ, when He raised
 Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly
 places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,
 and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the
 one to come.

C. Because God is the owner and sovereign ruler of the universe :**S#15.**

1. He has the right to command us to do whatever He wants done.
2. There is no higher authority to which we can appeal His judgments.

S#16.**II. Christians have voluntarily allowed themselves to be purchased/redeemed by God.****S#17.****A. All who have been called out and added to the church have been purchased.**

1. Jesus ransomed us; our sins had separated from God and we were captured by Satan.

I Tim. 2: 5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and **S#18.**
 men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave Himself as a ransom for all,
 the testimony given at the proper time.

2. Jesus shed His blood to purchase those He adds to His church.

Acts 20: 28 – Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the **S#19.**
 Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God
 which He purchased with His own blood.

3. Having purchased us with His blood, Jesus possesses us.

S#20.

That means we're His to do with as He pleases.

Titus 2: 13-14 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of **S#21.**
 our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, **14** who gave Himself for us to
 redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people
for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

B. Being the property of Jesus, we are required to surrender our will to His. S#22.

1. **I Cor. 6: 19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20** For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. S#23.

- a. Christ's ownership affects the decisions we make about our lifestyle.
- b. His ownership is to be manifest in our **physical body** .. not just mental ascent.

2. When the Apostle talked about his life being a manifestation of Christ, it was literal.

Gal. 2: 20 – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. S#24.

S#25.

III. All those who accept the benefits of being redeemed also accept the responsibilities**A. All those who accept Jesus as Savior also must accept Him as Lord. S#26.**

1. The time will come when everyone will acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus and bow.

Phil. 2: 9-11 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. S#27.

2. Those who will be saved must set Jesus as the Lord (ruler) of their heart. S#28.

I Pet. 3: 15 – do not fear their intimidation and do not be troubled **15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

3. Jesus is only the Lord of our heart if we obey Him in all things. S#29.

Luke 6: 46 – Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? (foundation)

B. Jesus has assigned a job to everyone who calls Him Lord. S#30.

1. **Matt. 28:18** – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, " All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** " Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." S#31.

2. In His absence, Jesus has appointed you as His ambassador.

II Cor. 5: 14-20 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; **15** and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. **16** Therefore from now on S#32. S#33.

we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. **17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. **18** Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **S#34.** reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we **beg** you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

3. **Luke 6: 46** – Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say **S#35.**

S#36.

IV. God has never accepted an excuse for the lack of obedience to His commands.

S#37.

- A. **Matt. 21: 28-32** ... In our text the two sons illustrate two kinds of Christians.

1. Most texts have two applications .. one to the original recipients and one for future.
2. Many come to Christ and enjoy the fellowship but never go into His vineyard.
3. Others don't want to go, but their love for their Lord causes them to go.

S#38.

- B. **Luke 13: 1-9** ... This text teaches us that God is patient, but judgment will come.

1. **II Pet. 3: 9** – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, **S#39.** but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

2. **Rev. 2: 5** – 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent. **S#40.**

- C. **Matt. 21: 19-22** ... Remember the story of the fig tree and that of the vine. **S#41.**

1. The fig tree should have produced, but did not. *We are expected to produce.*
2. Jesus compared us to branches on a vine.
 - a. **John 15: 2** – Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and **S#42.** every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.
 - b. **John 15: 8** – My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

S#43.

- D. God has expectations of everyone He purchases. *He has expectations of YOU.*

1. **Matt. 7: 21** – Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the **S#44.** kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father
2. **Prov 11:30** – The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.

CONCLUSION :**S#45.****A. You are the hope of the world.****S#46.**

1. Jesus has no plan “B”; Christians must carry the gospel to their world.
2. To fail to do so is to rebel against God.
3. To fail to share the gospel with others is to deny Jesus as our Lord. **Luke 6: 46**

B. When you became a Christian you entered into a covenant with Christ.

1. If you save me I will surrender my life to you and serve you.
2. Bondservants voluntarily commit to serve their master.
3. Having agreed to go labor in His vineyard we must keep our part of the covenant.
4. The assignment that he has given us is to bring more servants to Him.

C. God expects results from those He purchases to serve Him.

1. As with the fig trees, God expects that we will bear fruit for Him.
 - a. He gave the unfruitful tree a year to repent, but judgment was to follow.
 - b. When it was the time for the harvest of figs, Jesus curse the one with no fruit.
2. Jesus made our assignment very clear. **GO !! Teach.**
 - a. **Matt. 28: 19** – make disciples of all nations ... baptize ... teach
 - b. **Mark 16: 16** – preach the gospel to all creation
 - c. **Luke 24: 47** – forgiveness of sin be proclaimed in His name to all nations

D. God has never accepted an excuse of any kind.

1. With the parable of the talents Jesus taught that he expects our best effort.
 - a. The master (God) did not judge based on quantity of results, but of effort.
 - b. The master did not accept excuses. ***I'm afraid is the #1 excuse not to evangelize***
2. The messenger is responsible for the message, **not** for the response to it.
Ezek. 33: 9 – But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.

S#47.**S#48.****E. God has appointed you as His ambassador to your world. Are you functioning ?****INVITATION :****Communion .. S#49.**

Lesson Text :**Matthew 21: 28-32**

28 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ' Son, go work today in the vineyard.' **29** "And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went. **30** "The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, 'I will, sir'; but he did not go. **31** "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. **32** "For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him.

Luke 13: 1-9

1 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. **2** And Jesus said to them, " Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? **3** "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. **4** "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? **5** "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

6 And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. **7** "And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' **8** "And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; **9** and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.'"



Just because it is nice to see.