**Bible Class Notes – *Studies on The Lord Jesus* – Lesson 154**

**The Saviour – Rejected**

**This week** – **We learn of the disaster of rejecting The Saviour and losing His reward at His return.**

**AIM** To also demonstrate the Lord’s perfect knowledge of everything – including all future events.

I urge you to take seriously the Lord’s warnings. Todays’ warning is that you may miss the eternal blessing of the Gospel by refusing to repent. By ignoring God’s gracious call to repentance and faith, you are taking your life to yourself.

The Lord knew the hearts of the Religious Leaders in His day. The Scribes and the Pharisees. They hated Him and wanted Him dead. This would make them humanly responsible for His death.

The Lord had come to give His life to save sinners. He would allow the Scribes and Pharisees to influence Pilate and the Roman soldiers to take Him and crucify Him. But they were humanly responsible.

Remember the Lord riding triumphantly into Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of an ass. Everyone shouted “Hosanna to the Son of David.” All, except the Religious Leaders who watched in jealous rage. The people had witnessed and marvelled at the Lord performing miracles and preaching the truth with authority. All, except the Religious Leaders who watched with hatred.

2

The Scribes and Pharisees tried to hide their hatred of the Lord and their scheming to have Him killed. But the Lord knew all of this. He knew their heart. They asked Him questions trying to trick Him and to get the people to be set against Him.

**The Lord tells the Parable of the Vineyard Owner and the Husbandmen. VA heading**

**The Owner.** The beauty and productivity of the vineyard had been the owner’s life’s work. **VA** Owner He had bought the land, cultivated it, planted the best vines to grow the best grapes. **VA grapes** He built a wall around it to protect it and a winepress to crush the ripened grapes to make wine. **VA**  Vineyard The husbandmen (farmers) are given the privilege of sharing in the responsibility of its upkeep and care. The owner deserved their loyalty.

**The Wicked Husbandmen. VA Farmers**

At first, they were very pleased to rent the Vineyard

But then they became resentful of the owner. They wanted it for themselves and would not pay the rent rightfully due to the owner.

They behaved as if they owned the vineyard, taking all for themselves.

**The Servants.** **VA Servants** These were sent by the owner and came to collect the owners share which was his by right, but were cruelly treated.

**3**

The Wicked Husbandmen (farmers) beat one servant, stoned another half dead, and killed another.

The owner sent more servants. They were treated the same. **The owner was rightfully angry.**

**The Son.** **VA The son** The owner said, ***“Surely they will respect my son.”*** But no! He was thrown out of the vineyard and killed.

**The Owner Returns.** To judge and take rightful ownership of his vineyard.

***The Lord asked the Religious Leaders,* VA**

***“What should the owner do to the husbandmen?”***

***The Pharisees could only answer that the wicked men deserved judgement, and let out the vineyard to others who would respect the owner and pay him his dues.***

**The Meaning of the Parable: -**

**The Owner.** The Lord God, the Creator and sustainer of everything, made us to look after His creation. He has given us our lives and our souls. We each owe Him a ‘Debt of Rent’ for our life and our soul. He has richly blessed us with our Life, Health, Food, Clothes, Parents, Family, Friends, School, Church etc. **He rightly deserves our honour, worship, and willing service. VA and open flap**

**4**

**The Wicked Husbandmen. (Farmers)**

The Scribes and Pharisees knew that the Lord Jesus was describing both them and the Old Testament Jews who had cruelly rejected His prophets. **Matthew 21v45 VA, open flap**

They knew that many of the Old Testament Prophets had been rejected – Persecuted. They knew in their hearts that they hated Him and were planning to have Him killed.

***Let us look into our own hearts.*** *Are we like these Religious Leaders? Rebels in our hearts.*

***It is a description of us too, if we refuse to give the respect due to Him. “He that is not with me is against me.” Matthew 12v30***

**The Servants.** God’s faithful prophets, messengers and teachers who fearlessly preach God’s message. **VA, open flap** Isaiah, Jerimiah, and others, John the Baptist, etc. Teaching the need to acknowledge God as Holy, our owner and to repent our sin before Him. He loves us despite our sin wants to save us.

**How do we respond to God’s message of love? Do we Reject it? Rebel? Seek to ‘Kill it’? Do you laugh at God and His message of grace?**

**Have you stopped to consider how much you owe to God? *Do you think and act as if you own your life? Living as if there is no God. “I can do what I like.”***

**5**

**The Son. The LJC. He came, was hated, was killed.**

The Lord Jesus Christ – God The Son, was hated so much that in a few days’ time He would be rejected and taken out of the city (thrown out of the vineyard) and crucifiedon a cruel cross, like a common criminal. **VA, open flap**

**If we reject Him** as the Lord and owner of our lives **If we Resist His Laws** doing whatever we want **If we Turn our backs** on His love and mercy

**THEN we are saying in our hearts, “Crucify Him, away with Him; I will not have Him as my Lord and God.”**

***May I plead with you, “Come to the Son, the Saviour Who died for you on Calvary, to save you from God’s holy wrath.”***

Repent, believe, trust, honour, obey, and serve Him as the LORD of your life. Look to Him as the King of kings. Your LORD and KING.

**The Owner Returns. VA, open flap**

**The Jewish Leaders agreed that the Husbandmen should be punished for their Wicked ways.**

***Matthew 21 v42-45 - Jesus saith unto them, “Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore, say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”***

***6***

***V45 - And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard His parables, they perceived that He spake of them.***

They were angry and went away more determined that He should be put to death.

The Jews were judged for rejecting the Messiah. They lost their Old Testament privilege of being God’s chosen and protected people. God’s New Testament Church is made up of people from all nations.

**The LJC is coming again to end this world and judge everyone who has ever lived.**

**We must remember that the Lord is warning us that He has promised to return to end this world in Judgement. The Bible clearly teaches this.**

**Those who oppose Him now will tremble on that awesome day when they see Him return in great glory and great power!**

**Will you come now as obedient servants, with repentant hearts, paying Him due honour and respect?**

**Will you be ready to welcome Him when He comes again?**

**Will you hear Him say, “Welcome into Heaven”, OR “Depart from Me, for I never knew you.”**

**7**

***Paul wrote, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:in Whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Ephesians 2v19-22***

**Important Lesson for us Today: Who was humanly responsible for the Lord’s death?** Although the Lord Jesus came willingly to die to save us, He predicted that the religious leaders would be responsible for His death. They were not amongst the welcoming crowds when the Saviour rode into Jerusalem. They did not willingly accept His teachings like the crowds but instead demanded on what authority did He speak. They deliberately asked Him questions to catch him out so they could have Him arrested, plotting His death.

The Lord knew their hearts, and, in warning and mercy, spoke this parable to rescue them from their deserved punishment if they continued in their hatred and hostility to Him.

**The Lord knows our attitude to Him. Will we turn to Him in repentance and faith, or so hate His authority over us that we too are guilty of wanting His death?**