

# The Reprobation of Israel

**Parable of the workers in the vineyard, cleansing of the temple, the barren fig-tree, parable of the two sons, parable of the tenants of the vineyard, parable of the wedding feast, the 7 woes against the scribes and Pharisees...**

## Matthew 20 to 23

This is the sixth Sermon of the King, Jesus, and a long one... it is the reprobation of Israel for not believing in the Son of man.

### Chapter 20:

1- The parable of the workers in the vineyard, 1-16:

*"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (20:16).*

2- A prediction of Christ's approaching sufferings, 17-19:

*"They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" (20:18-19)...*

3- The petition of two of the disciples, by their mother, reproved, 20-28:

*"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave. Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (20:26-28).*

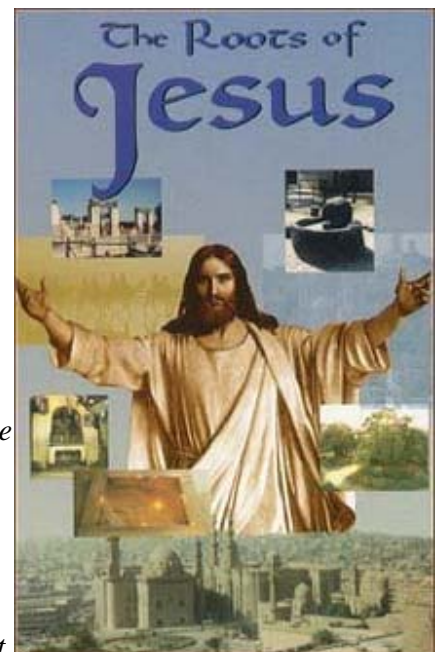
4- The petition of the two blind men granted, and their eyes opened, 29-34:

*"Immediately they received their sight and followed him" (20:34)...* humility!, to have opened the eyes of the body, and, most specially, the eyes of the soul!.

### Chapter 21:

1- The public entry which Jesus made into Jerusalem

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" (Mt.21:9)...* "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." (Lk.19:40).



2- Cleansing of the temple, and driving out of it the buyers and sellers, 12-26:

*"It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' "* (21:13).

3- The barren fig-tree, and his discourse with his disciples thereupon, 17-22:

*"I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."* (21:21-22).

4- Jesus justifies his own authority, by appealing to the baptism of John, 23-27.

5- The parable of the two sons 29-32:

*"Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'" "I will not," he answered, but later he changed his mind and went."* (21:28-29)... *"I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you"* (21:31).

6- The parable of the tenants of the vineyard: 33-46.

*"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.' (21:38)... "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."* (21:43).

*"By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."* (Mt.7:16-17)

## **Chapter 22:**

This chapter is a continuation of Christ's discourses in the temple, three days before he died.

1- The parable of the wedding feast, 1-14.

Instruction given, concerning the rejection of the Jews, and the calling of the Gentiles, and, by the doom of the guest that had not the wedding-garment, the danger of hypocrisy in the profession of Christianity.

2- Disputes with the Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes, who opposed Christ:

1. Paying tribute to Cæsar, 15-22. 2.

2- The resurrection of the dead, and the future state, 23-33.

3. The great commandment of the law, 34-40.

4. The relation of the Messiah to David, 41-46.

## **Chapter 23:**

1- The 7 woes against the scribes and Pharisees, 4-33:

Some of the toughest words of Jesus, the most bitter denunciation that ever fell from his lips.

Jesus warns his disciples not to imitate their hypocrisy and pride, he exhibits a charge against them for divers high crimes and misdemeanors, corrupting the law, opposing the gospel, and treacherous dealing both with God and man...

... Watch out!... you and I, some of us who think of ourselves as good Christians may be like the scribes and Pharisees!.

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean... "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? (23:27,33).*

2- Jesus passes sentence upon Jerusalem, and foretells the ruin of the city and temple, 34-39:

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate" (22:37-38).*