

**Matthew 21:23-46**  
***Who Do You Think You Are?***  
March 15, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Intro**

Hub McCann knew exactly who he was. And so did Jesus.

Turn to Matthew 21.

**v. 12** - Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple.

**v. 17** - Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany and He *lodged* there.

**v. 23** - Now when Jesus came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what *authority* are You doing these things? And who gave You this *authority*?”

**v. 24** - Jesus answered and said to them, “I'll also ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I'll likewise tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?”

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**John 1:29ff** - John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the *Lamb of God*, who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me because *He was before me.*' ...Then John testified: "He who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The Man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who'll baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I've seen and I testify that *this is the Son of God.*"

**Malachi 3:1** - See, I will send My messenger, who'll prepare the way before Me. Then suddenly *the Lord* you're seeking will come to His *temple.*"

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**v. 25** - And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, [The baptism of John was] ‘From heaven,’ He'll say to us, ‘Then why didn't you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus and said, “We don't know.”

And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.  
**v. 28** - “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I won't,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he didn't go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

**v. 32** - For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn't believe him; John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn't believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you didn't afterward relent and believe him.

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**v. 33** - “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to tenant farmers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers, that they might receive its fruit. (That's the way tenant farming worked...) Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers, that they might receive its fruit. And the tenant farmers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They'll respect my son.’ But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*.”

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**Isaiah 5:7** - The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel.

**Vineyard = Israel**

**Owner of the vineyard = God the Father**

**Owner's servants = Prophets**

**Tenant farmers = Religious leaders**

**Owner's son = Jesus**

**John 3** - God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

**John 1** - He came to His own, and *His own didn't receive Him.*

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**v. 40** - "Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?" They said to Him, "He'll destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other tenant farmers who'll render to him the fruits in their seasons."

**v. 45** - When the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they *perceived* He was speaking of them.

**"This is the heir. Let's kill him and seize his inheritance."**

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**Ps. 24:1** – The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

*What belongs to God?    Everything and Everyone*

**Romans 14:8** - If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, *we belong to the Lord.*

**Romans 12:1** - I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

**John 15:16** - Jesus said, “You didn’t choose Me, I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.”

**Galatians 5:22** - The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

- **What you do is important.**
- **But what you do stems from who you are.**

**v. 33** - The *landowner* planted a vineyard, set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower.

**Jesus said to them,** “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders *rejected* has become the chief cornerstone.”

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**Ephesians 2:20-21** - Together, we're built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And *the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself*. In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

**v. 44** - “Whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

Conclusion - In your life Jesus is either the Cornerstone or the Crushing Stone.

*Is Jesus the Cornerstone of your life?*

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