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| 1  Mark 11:27-12:12 Sermon Outline  10/15/23  “The Stone of Rejection or Salvation”  INTRO:  Providential that in light of passage today, Israel at war.  Israeli-Palestinian conflict goes way back, even further than 1948 to Jacob and Esau  Expected that Israel will have conflict  Not expected that Israel will have conflict internally  Think of the prophets:  Isaiah sawn in two  Jeremiah constantly mistreated, falsely accused of treason, thrown into a pit, according to tradition, stoned to death by Jews  Ezekiel faced similar hostility | 2  Amos forced to flee for life  Zechariah rejected  Micaiah struck in the face  Ultimately Christ is rejected  But this is not outside of God’s control, happening exactly according to plan  THESIS:  In fact, rejection by Jews will lead to salvation for Gentiles  REVIEW:  Last week we saw Jesus denouncing religious leaders for corruption of temple  Temple = Israel’s spiritual life  Did not come to be military-political king |
| 3  Jesus came to save His people from their sins  They need just as much saving as Gentiles do  BODY:  Jesus temporarily staying in Bethany  -Once again makes trip to Jerusalem  -Wednesday  Chief priests, scribes, elders come to Jesus to trap Him  Chief priests = pastors  scribes = professional theologians  elders = elders  They question Jesus’ authority  Not denying miracles but authority to do the powerful/miraculous  This is not ignorance but willful rejection | 4  But Jesus counters in verse 29 with own question  read verses 29-30  Realizing that Jesus turned the tables on them (high ground) they respond in verse 31-33  Jesus not only asked brilliant question but linking rejection of Him to rejection to John  John testified of Jesus  -Voice of one crying out in the wilderness  -John “He existed before me”  Obviously they didn’t want to admit John was from God because then that would mean they believe Jesus is from God  But neither did they want to admit John was from mere men because they could get stoned!  Verse 32 “From men?---” suggests fear of religious leaders for life  If they were honest and had convictions they would say John was a mere man sent from men |
| 5  But they didn’t  -spineless coward  -no backbone  -no convictions  Their whole life is just offering suggestions of what Scripture means based on this and that Rabbi’s interpretation  But convictions is what drives your life, if necessary, even unto death  And so they say nothing, they are silenced  Then Jesus gives an immediate parable against them  12:1-9 (read)  Talking about a common produce and economic operation in Israel for production of wine  Tower was there to watch out for wild animals eating the grapes and even robbers who would trespass  Man goes out on journey and rents vineyard to vine-growers | 6  Verse 2  Harvest time so sends slave to collect some produce  But vine-growers beat him and send him away empty-handed  “beat” = *dero* = to remove the skin = violent/brutal  Man tries again and sends another slave  “wound him in the head” = bash his head in and treats him shamefully  He sends third slave and they just kill him  He sends more slaves and some they kill others they beat  This man has immense patience and grace, how about you?  Finally man sends his beloved son thinking they will respect his son  But they end up killing son because they think they will get inheritance. |
| 7  They toss his body out of the vineyard like trash and roadkill. No proper burial  Absolutely barbaric, senseless, evil, depraved  Jesus says in verses 9-11 (read)  Man will destroy the vine-growers and then give it to others  Parables can be parables of judgment or salvation  Typically they conceal truth to unbelievers and reveal truth to believers  But this case, it is a parable of judgment designed for the unbeliever to understand his judgment  They knew exactly what he was talking about: Verse 12 (read)  Remember Stephen from Acts 7?  Gave a stinging indictment against Jews | 8  *“You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.**Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;**you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it.”*  Probably Isaiah 5 comes to their mind  vineyard = Israel = bear fruit for God  man = God  vine-growers = religious leaders  slaves = prophets sent to rebuke Israel  But they produced nothing but “baashim” = sour inedible grapes = worthless  At first they were rebellious and stiff-necked  but as time went on and kingdom collapsed nation split into two and sin and idolatry rampant  Became more vile and murderous |
| 9  Yes leaders of Israel = doubly accountable  But also nation as a whole = accountable to God  Their rejection of God was to the point that Paul said a partial hardening has occurred to Israel and right now God is focusing on the Gentiles and their salvation.  Central to all this is psalm 118:22-23  “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES”  quote = stone that was initially rejected in construction of sanctuary but became key cornerstone for entrance to temple  So much history behind this quotation  Jews would have understood context but we need to do a little catch up and see the context  Ready? Hold onto your horses! Theology of stones | 10  We all know God’s presence in the OT was in Ark of the Covenant right?  If you were living in that time, you took God’s holiness seriously  One false move, one careless slipup could mean you are dead  Remember Uzzah in 2 Samuel 6?  God struck him dead when Ark slipped and he tried to catch it  Fast forward to King Solomon’s reign  God is dwelling in beautiful temple  High point in Israel’s history  -Nations are streaming to see economic prosperity  -period of peace  -closest to millennial kingdom that Israel has seen  until…Solomon fell into sin |
| 11  Kingdom split into two and Israel apostatized so bad that God sent Babylon to destroy the city and exile His people into foreign land  Later return from exile and built second temple  -Not as glorious as first temple though  Ready to obey Mosaic law, festivities, and sacrifices,  but the problem…  There is no ark of the covenant, no cherubim, no mercy seat, no dwelling, no presence of God  Because God’s glory departed from the temple in Ezekiel  Although no ark, no glory, yet…there was a stone. Why?  Backpedal 1000 years to Genesis  We get first association of God with a stone | 12  *“This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”*  Jacob was presumptuous but God was gracious  Stone/rock = unchanging, immovable, everlasting, unbreakable, powerful  Gen. 49:24 = God referred to as “Stone of Israel”  Fast forward to Isaiah  Isaiah 8:11-15  In light of impending national judgment into exile the people are told not to fear and not to believe in conspiracies.  Rather v. 13:  *“It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread.* |
| 13  *“Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. “Many will stumble over them, Then they will fall and be broken; They will even be snared and caught.”*  If the people fear Him God = sanctuary for them  But if not God = stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, a snare and a trap  But people did not listen  Isaiah 28  they have made a “covenant with death and with Sheol we have made a pact”  Thus God responds verse 16:  *“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.”* | 14  Despite being worthy of judgment God has already a plan to save Israel with this stone  Stone = God’s doing, not man’s  Stone = tested of its quality  Stone = costly cornerstone for foundation  Stone = require one to exercise faith in it  Fast forward again to return from exile before second temple built in book of Zechariah  Book of Zechariah = written during Gentile domination and God’s promises seemed hopeless  Zech. 3  Joshua, high priest (not book of Joshua) = dirty clothes  God and Satan there  dirty = nation in exile dirty or can’t make atonement for himself before atonement for others?  But God encourages Joshua saying: |
| 15  *“Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you—indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch.**For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; on one stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it,’ declares the Lord of hosts, ‘and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.”*  righteous Branch of Isaiah = stone of Israel = Messiah!  Further revelation  Stone = 7 eyes = perfection of sight, He can pierce through with his eyes to anyone’s heart. He is all knowing and living  Stone = remove iniquity in one day (or three hours precisely) at the cross  This is the last we see of Satan in OT  almost 600 years pass no new revelation, just darkness | 16  NT = light has shone in the darkness with arrival of Jesus  Before ministry Jesus must be tested  He must go into an intense spiritual battle with the adversary, Satan  Why? = Isa. 28 he must be a “tested” stone  Must be tested to see if He is truly worthy as the son of God to carry out redemption  Notice all three of Satan’s temptation in Matthew 4:1-11  Tempted to:  1. turn “stones” to bread  2. jump off temple so that angels wouldn’t allow his foot to strike a “stone” on the ground  3. All kingdoms of the world and their glory I will give to you = Dan. 2 about stone that crushes kingdoms |
| 17  King Nebuchadnezzar had dream about statute with iron, bronze, clay, gold, etc.  Daniel interpreted = different materials = different kingdoms  Greece, Rome, Antichrist (Rev. 13)  But stone carved not out of hands will come and crush that entire statue to powder  Prophecy that Christ’s kingdom is coming and will never be moved  Satan: turn these stones into bread  Jesus: I am the bread and the stone  Satan: jump off the temple  Jesus: I will not be moved only my Father moves me | 18  Satan: I will give you all my kingdoms and glory  Jesus: I will crush all those kingdoms and they are already mine  Satan goes away  The accuser, the adversary, last seen in OT with prophecy of stone in Zechariah 3 and appears in temptation involving stones in NT  From God removing His glory Ez. 8-11 to Jesus’ day, no visible display of God’s glory  Return from exile and Mosaic Law, sacrifices and festivals = no glory  Gentile kingdoms rose and fall = no glory  Temple rebuild = no glory  People prayed in temple for God’s glory = no glory |
| 19  Until glory of the Lord shined brightly on that fateful day on the shepherds  “The people sitting in darkness have seen a great light”  Hope has dawned, Christ the cornerstone has arrived  Jesus came to dwell with men, lit. “tabernacle” with men  Glory of God will not come in an ark, nor a temple but in a man, the God-man, the son of man  He is the true temple, the true ark of the covenant  *“He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him*.”  Why? | 20  because “Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law.Why? Because “*they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”*  Apostle Peter knows from firsthand experience what it means to be a stumbling block.  Matthew 16  Great confession: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God  statement = rock = immovable unchangeable statement  Upon this “rock” I will build my church  What did Peter do right after? Prevented Jesus from going to the cross  Ironically Peter = “Cephas” = rock = stumbling stone |
| 21  God wasn’t done with Peter  Peter would truly live out name “Petra” rock  A man built on truth when he finally comes to understand significance of confession  Necessary for Jesus to be rejected and killed and rise three days later so that church would be born  And this church would be built “on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the cornerstone” -Eph. 2:20  If you have trusted in Christ*, Peter says you have come to Jesus as a “living stone rejected by men but is choice and precious in the sight of God and that you are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. He has chosen you to be a “CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD’S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”* | 22  The stone never changes nor will it ever change  But you will change, you will be moved one direction or another  How do you regard God’s stone?  Matt. 21:44  *“And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”*  You will be crushed into powder in the mortar and pestle of God’s wrath if you reject the Stone  Don’t be like those who are apathetic to the gospel  Maybe you go to church every Sunday and you hear the gospel  Maybe you attend small group every week too and you hear the gospel again  But you never respond. You don’t really care. |
| 23  Jesus is important, but He can’t be everything there is to life. I have other priorities in life that I need to take care of  If you are like that, you are the one whom Jesus is speaking to in Matt. 21:44… the one who stumbles onto the stone and is broken to pieces  Maybe you are one of those who have outright already made your decision against Christ. You decided you want to live for yourself, your own way, only you can dicate how you are to live. You are not going to submit to this so called Christ  May God have mercy on you, because you are in the second category of Matt. 21:44 where the stone of Christ will fall on you and crush and grind you to powder  Both apathy and rejection will land you into the everlasting fire where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched  Both is building their house on sand and will be swept away in judgment | 24  Don’t be like the religious leaders who hold on their power, influence, and their little kingdom  Build your house on the rock of God’s word and not on the shifting sands of this world  Be like David in Psalm 18  *“I love You, O Lord, my strength.” The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.”*  Don’t build your kingdom, run to the kingdom that cannot be shaken  Who will you choose?  Your kingdom or God’s Kingdom?  Let’s pray |