



Four Parables with Four Judgments...

Embracing the Surety of God's Wrath and Adjusting Accordingly!

October 23, 2022

Holy Text: Matthew 22:1-14. Today's focus: verse 7

- Let us recap a bit. What we have seen in each of the last four narratives/story arcs are essentially "Four narratives with Four judgments."
- Each narrative and parable uses judgment language to both express our LORD's displeasure with the hard-heartedness of His hearers AND foreshadow things to come...
- Jesus' words and actions in the Temple set the stage:

Matthew 21:12-13 (KJV) *And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, 13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

- He would go on to say...

Matthew 24:1-2 (KJV) *And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*

Matthew 23:37-39 (KJV) *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

- Recently, we have read...

1. The Parable of the Fig Tree

Matthew 21:19 (KJV) *And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.*

2. The Parable of the Two Sons

Matthew 21:31 (KJV) *Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.*

3. The Parable of the Tenants

Matthew 21:38-41 (KJV) *But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. 40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.*

Matthew 21:43-44 (KJV) *Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.*

4. The Parable of the Wedding feast

Matthew 22:7 (KJV) *But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*

- Each of the last four parables contains warnings of coming judgment. Christ was being clear that rejecting Him would provoke temporal and spiritual calamity!
- There are three time markers when it comes of prophetic judgment language, even in a parable: **fore, far, and final**. The **fore**-future, which describes events that are relatively imminent, perhaps within a generation from the hearers. The **far**-future, which describes events that are a “long” way off. The **final**-future, which describes events that are final consummation in nature, i.e. the return of Christ and final judgment.
- Certainly, a *fore* judgment occurred in 70AD when Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome. Debates within the church continue as to the nature of *far* and *final* judgments.
- **But we can be certain that God WILL Judge. Instead of emotionally running from this reality, or living like it isn't coming, I suggest we embrace this Kingdom reality. It might just turn out to be a blessing to the building of both God's House AND our households!**

An Unpopular but Divine character trait: God's Wrath

1. Our text describes the anger of the King at the treatment of His servants and the rejection of His divine invitation to the wedding feast. (v.7)
2. He was *wroth*, a word that means “provoked to anger or enraged!”
3. In his anger, He would send forth His armies and destroy those who would dare do such such things!
4. Beloved, this ability to be angry and render harsh judgment IS a part of the character of God.
5. God is love (1 Jn 4:8), kind (Titus 3:4), merciful (Eph 2:4), and longsuffering towards us (2 Pet 3:9), but that's not all...

OT Judgments

1. Eden (Gen 3)
 - Sin: Adam and Eve sin against God, disobeying His command to not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Gen 2:17; 3:1-6)
 - Judgment: An awareness of evil, shame, distance from God due to their rebellion, mortality and expulsion from Eden, and plunging the entire human race into sin. (Gen 3)
2. The Flood (Gen 6)
 - Sin: the great wickedness of man and the continual sinfulness of the imagination of the thoughts of his heart. (Gen 6:5)
 - Judgment: a global flood which killed the entire human population (AIG estimates 750 Million to 4 Billion) and land dwelling animals except Noah, his wife, his three sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth) and their wives (and the animals on the Ark).
 - **Genesis 6:6-8 (KJV)** *And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of*

the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. **8** But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

3. Mount Sinai (Ex 32)

- Sin: building and worshipping a golden calf while Moses was on the mountain...
- Judgment: 3000 dead at the hands of the Levites, and a plague from the LORD.

4. The Incident at Baal Peor (Num 25)

- Sin: because of the machinations of Balak and the counsel of Balaam (Num 31:16), Israel committed fornication and idolatry with the women of Moab.

Numbers 25:1-3 (KJV) *And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. **2** And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. **3** And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.*

- Judgment: leaders hanged, idolaters killed, 23,000 killed in a single day, 24,000 in total. (1 Cor 10:8)

5. Babylonian Captivity (2 Kings 21:1-18; 2 Chr 36, between 607-586 B.C.)

- Sin: gross and generational idolatry. For example, even after a good King named Josiah had instituted godly reforms in Judah, God was still angry at one of his predecessors: Manasseh...

2 Kings 23:26-27 (KJV) *Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal. **27** And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.*

- Judgment: When Zedekiah was King in Judah...

2 Chronicles 36:11-21 (KJV) *Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. **12** And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. **13** And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel. **14** Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. **15** And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: **16** But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. **17** Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. **18** And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. **19** And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem,*

and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. **20** And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: **21** To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

If we had time we might consider Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19), or the judgment on Israel when Joshua and Caleb weren't believed (Num 13-14), and more!

Some Words from Jesus on Judgment

John 5:24-29 (KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. **25** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. **26** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; **27** And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. **28** Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, **29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Matthew 13:40-43 (KJV) As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. **41** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; **42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 25:31-46 (KJV) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: **32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: **33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. **34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **35** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: **36** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. **37** Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? **38** When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? **39** Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? **40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. **41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: **42** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: **43** I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. **44** Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? **45** Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. **46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Some Apostolic statements on Judgment

Romans 2:1-6 (KJV) *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

2 Corinthians 5:8-10 (KJV) *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

2 Peter 2:4-9 (KJV) *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

2 Peter 3:7-10 (KJV) *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

A Godly Response to Coming Judgment

1. **Fear God!** Live with a loving, reverent trembling! (Prov 1:7, 9:10; Isa 66:2; Rev 14:7)
2. **Pursue holiness!** (Lev 19:2; 1 Pet 1:16) God's wrath comes because of disobedience! (Col 3:5-6) Although we are saved, let us refuse to live in sin and defilement but by faith! (Jam 2:14-18)
3. **Live with purpose!** We don't know when eternity will be upon us. Live for Christ! (Gal 2:20; Col 3:1-4))
4. **Exchange worry for joy!** The final consummation of all things approaches. All tears will be wiped away! (Isa 61:3; John 15:11; Rev 21:4)
5. **Preach the Gospel and make Disciples!** (Matt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15) In your home, down the street, and around the world, preach! The Day will come when those you love (and all men) will be judged!

Revelation 20:11-15 (KJV) *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Amen!