

Passion Week Wednesday 2021
Matt.22:23-33
Thoughts on Not Going Wrong

I. Passion Week, the most important week in human history.

- A. After 3.5 years of intense, miraculous, and controversial public ministry.
 - 1. Jesus comes to Jerusalem and forces the issue.
 - 2. He is the true Lord, the king in God's kingdom and the leader of God's new people.
- B. Triumphal Entry/Palm Sunday. (Matt.21; Mark.11; Lk.19; Jn.12)
 - 1. He enters counterintuitively, in humility, and yet a real sort of fame.
 - 2. He basically presents himself as the true king in God's kingdom.
- C. Passion Week. (see outline, Harmony of Passion Week)
 - 1. The main issue at stake is the authority of Jesus. Is he the Messiah?
 - 2. The Jewish leadership had to discredit and condemn Jesus to retain their own political and religious equilibrium.
- D. The challenge we will study happened on Tuesday.
 - 1. The Pharisees, Torah experts (Lawyers), Nationalists (Herodians), and Jewish leaders (Sanhedrin types) had all had a shot at him, and all got shot down. **Matt.21:23, 22:15**
 - 2. Jesus was telling parables that essentially accused the Jewish leadership of being out to lunch. Matt. 21:28-46 (**see 45**); 22:1-14.
 - 3. All of chapter 23 is a scathing rebuke of Israel's religious elite (Scribes and Pharisees)

II. The Sadducees challenge Jesus on the subject of resurrection. Matt.22:23-33 (Jesus himself would soon be the first resurrected human in history, the first of millions who would come into eternal life by faith in his name).

- A. The Sadducees think they can trip Jesus up with an absurd illustration. 23-28.
 - 1. Levirate marriage. A very ancient custom, also included in the Mosaic law. Deut.25:5-10. (Latin "Levir" = "husband's brother")
 - 2. This makes sense to the Sadducees because they are assuming:
 - a) *Resurrection is impossible. There is no resurrection in the first place.*
 - (1) This was their starting point, because they had never seen one.
 - b) *If there were to be resurrection, it would be identical in every way to life on earth today.*
 - (1) With regard to marriage, procreation, sex, etc.
 - 3. *Our worldview is crucial to our knowledge base. Our Unexamined Presuppositions about the nature of reality will guide our thinking about everything, and we will be unaware of it.*
- B. Jesus simply contradicts them, and then explains briefly why they are mistaken. 29-32
 - 1. You are simply wrong. (from planao = to wander and be of the path mistaken, in error)
 - a) *Sometimes it's the right thing to simply say that somebody is mistaken.*
 - 2. Because you don't understand the most important things. (from oida = to have information, to know something, to perceive accurately)
 - a) The Scriptures. (he quotes from Ex.3:6)
 - b) The power of God.
 - 3. God has the power to create a new sort of complete human life. 30
 - a) In the resurrection there is no procreation/sex/marriage.
 - b) He does **not** say two things people sometimes think.
 - (1) That we become angels.
 - (a) There are orders of being. Humans are never angels and angels may appear human at times, but they are not humans.
 - (2) That we are no longer male and female.
 - (a) God created humanity male and female and he said it was good that way.

c) He does say that our interpersonal relationships are like angelic relationships. No sexual component.

d) *Could there be a sort of life that transcends healthy sexual and emotional intimacy we have in marriage?*

“Lack of sex or marriage does not in any way diminish heavenly bliss. In the life to come all interpersonal relationships will no doubt far surpass the most intimate and pleasurable of human intercourse as we now know it. Neither jealousy nor exclusivism will mar human interaction in any way.” Craig Blomberg, *New American Commentary on Matthew* (Broadman, 1992) p.333

4. **The Scriptures do teach resurrection: God’s friends are alive. 31-32.** (quoting Ex.3:6, Moses and the burning bush)

a) Look at the implications of this statement. Jesus is saying that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are *present tense in relationship with God*.

b) Note, at the transfiguration Jesus talked with Moses and Elijah, recognizable men. Matt.17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36.

III. How to avoid being wrong. *Three things not to do if you want to Think Like Jesus.*

A. **Don’t limit your thinking to what humans can do (are doing).** *You do not understand the power of God. 29*

1. Think about what God is doing in the world, not just what the world is doing. God’s power is the Source.

2. For over 300 years the world has been drinking only its own bath water.

a) Cogito Ergo Sum. I Think, Therefore I Am. (Rene Descartes (d.1650)

b) Actually, *God thinks, therefore we are*.

c) **Pr.1:7.** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

d) **Pr.9:10.** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; the knowledge of the Holy is insight.

3. *Jesus always started with the Father’s presence and power instead of man’s. Even when facing the cross, the Lord trusted the Father’s wisdom, love, and power over his own feelings.*

B. **Don’t let the noise of the world drown out the voice of God.** *Have you not **read** what he is **said** to you? (Jesus said this sort of thing often, have you not read...?)*

1. Pay deep attention to the Scriptures under the light of the gospel.

a) Meditating on God’s Word is the main nourishment of a blessed life. Psalm 1.

b) Scripture is God’s voice, His *written speech* directly to his covenant community. 2 Tim.3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

2. *Jesus always read and believed the OT Scriptures in light of his own work on the cross. He knew that he was fulfilling them. Matt.5:17; Luke 24:25-27; 44-48.*

C. **Don’t put your hope anywhere but the gospel of the Kingdom. Mark.:1:14-15**

1. The Jewish leadership had great hope in human politics and religious obedience. *Huge human self-confidence.*

a) But they would not believe the good news that God’s kingdom was (and is) present in Christ Jesus. Jn.5:37-40

2. *Jesus always lived in the gospel hope because he knew he was going to win. Heb.12:1-2; Matt.19:28-30*

3. *He knew that he is the King.*