

## *Eschatology Lesson 6*

### ***The Focus Of Jesus Ministry Changes***

**Israel's Unbelief:** The focus of Jesus ministry begins to change as the nation of Israel began to reject their Messiah.

#### 1. JESUS BEGINS TO SPEAK IN PARABLES. *Matthew 13*

- a. The **same day** that the Jewish leaders rejected Jesus and His miracles by attributing his power and authority to cast demons by the power of Beelzebub. *Matthew 12: 22-27*
  - As Jesus answers the accusation he removes any illusions about “neutral ground” and warns about rejecting Him, committing the “unforgiveable sin” – blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. *Matt. 12: 30-32*
- b. The disciples notice and question the change in Jesus teaching. *Matt. 13:10*
- c. The disciples have been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom. *13:11*
  - *Mysterion*- A hidden thing, secret, mystery, confided only to the initiated and not to the ordinary mortals.
  - Basically Jesus is saying “I am a fraternity and I am opening up some information to you that if your in my club you are going to understand but if your not in my club you will have no idea what I am talking about.” *1 Cor. 2:14-16*
- d. Jesus used parables so that the hearts of those rejecting would not be hardened further. *Matt. 13:12*
  - The same sun that softens the wax hardens the clay; and so the very same gospel message that humbles the honest heart and leads to repentance may also harden the heart of the dishonest listener and confirm that one in their path of disobedience
  - “The parable *conceals truth from those who are either too lazy to think or too blinded by prejudice to see.* It puts the responsibility fairly and squarely on the individual. It *reveals* truth to him who desires truth; it *conceals* truth from him who does not wish to see the truth.” (Barclay)
  - “Thus the parables spoke to the crowds do not simply convey information, nor mask it, but challenge the hearers.” (Carson)

#### 2. JESUS OFFICIAL REJECTION OF ISRAEL AND HIS PLAN FOR THE CALLING OUT OF A CHURCH AND MOVING ON. *Matt. 16:13-18*

- a. Jesus announces to His disciples the future “mystery”...His Church.
  - The name Peter means “*little rock*”, a promise of God’s work in Peter.
  - In light of other scripture it is best to see the term “*This Rock*” as referring to Jesus himself, or upon Peter’s confession of who Jesus is.
    - Peter, by His own testimony, did not see himself as the rock on which the church was founded. He says that we are living stones, but Jesus is the cornerstone *1 Peter 2:4-7.*
  - “*I will build my church*” shows us clear ownership. The church belongs to Jesus.
  - “*the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*” Jesus gives us a promise that the forces of evil, death, and sin can not conquer the church.

- “*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven*”: The church has power as the children of God to bind the forces of darkness, and to loose the work of God. God has given us that authority over these spirit forces, these spiritual entities, that as children of God, we do have authority over them. We can bind these spirit forces and we can loose the work of God.
- b. A few months later, during his final week in Jerusalem, he announced to the nation and its leaders. *Matthew 21:42-44*
  - “*The stone the builders **rejected** this has become the chief **cornerstone***”: The cornerstone (or foundation stone) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.
  - “*Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who produce its fruit*”
    - Jesus speaks of judgment upon the nation of Israel through his parable. It is clear that God will judge and discipline the nation. God will again deal specifically with Israel after the church age. *Luke 21:24*
    - God desires fruit! The church is who the kingdom of God will be given to accomplish His work on earth.
- c. Jesus wept over Jerusalem as he realized the terrible fate that would come upon the nation because of their rejection of him. *Matthew 23:37-39*
  - “*How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,*”: Despite the coming judgment for the nation of Israel, Jesus reveals his heart for Israel showing us that despite all they had done He was still willing but it was they who were unwilling.
  - “*For now on you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD’*”: When Jesus returns again the Jewish people will welcome Him as their Messiah. *Romans 11:26*

### 3. THE CHURCH MYSTERY REVEALED

- a. The church announced by Jesus! *Matt. 16:13-18*
- b. The church begins at Pentecost. *Acts 2*
- c. Revelation of the Mystery of the Church through Paul. *Christ-Romans 16:25; Resurrection and Glorified Body-1Cor. 15:51-58; Headship of Christ-Eph.1:9-10; The Bride of Christ*
- d. The Gospel to All Nations: The essence of the mystery of the Church is that, through this new assembly, God would include all people who would believe: both Jews and Gentiles. They would, in sense become one. *Galatians 3:26-28*
- e. The Body & Bride of Christ- The church is different from Israel in many ways One example is that we are the *Body of Christ*. (*1 Cor. 12:14-27; Eph. 12:4*)
- f. Grafted in Temporarily- In Israel’s Place. *Romans 11:17-25*
- g. The Church Must Not Antagonize Israel. *Rom, 11:25*