The Result Of Rejecting Divine Authority

Matthew 21:33-46

Intro:

A. The chief priests and temple elders had raised the question of authority with Jesus.
   1. By what authority, God’s or man’s?
   2. By whose authority? Who told you to exercise it? (We certainly did not!)

B. The authority was from God.
   1. He sent John to reveal His will.
   2. You all rejected it.
   3. The publicans and harlots accepted it.
   4. They are in His kingdom, you all are not.

C. Jesus continues the subject.
   1. He now enlarges it to include the nation of Israel.
   2. He tells them by parable and by plain statement the consequences of their rejection.

I. The Parable Of The Householder’s Vineyard.

A. The earthly details. V.33
   1. dug a winepress = “to crush the grapes.
   2. built a tower = “to watch for invading foxes or others who might spoil the vineyards.
   3. Let it out to husbandmen.
   4. Sent servants to receive the produce.
   5. They killed his servants.
   6. Last of all he sent his son.
   7. They slew him.
   8. “What will he do unto those husbandmen?”

B. The reply of the chief priests.
   1. He will destroy the husbandmen. V.41
   2. He ill let his vineyard to others.

II. The Interpretation And Application.

A. They should have known Jesus.
   1. Jesus was (is) the cornerstone. V.42
2. This was the key-stone in our modern architectural language.
3. This is the way God does things.

B. The consequences of rejecting Him.
1. "...the kingdom of God shall be taken from you." V.43
2. "...and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."
3. nation = σθυνος = "a people", "those who live under common institutions," "the Gentile nations as distinct from other nations"

C. The power of the "stone" Jesus.
1. broken = συνθλαιω = "to crush together" (This refers to one being broken in spirit and in heart. To be prepared spiritually for repentance.) V.44
2. grind to powder = λημαω = "to winnow, to scatter to the winds, make chaff, to disperse."

D. The perception of the Pharisees.
1. perceived = γινωσκω = "to obtain knowledge of, or insight into." V.45
2. They could not silence Him. V.46