

One True Church Series
A Den Of Thieves
Bible Sermon Notes by O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

Matthew 21:28-32

- 28 But what think ye? A *certain* man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.
- 29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward **he repented, and went.**
- 30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, **I go, sir: and went not.**
- 31 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.
- 32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen *it*, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

The second son is deceptive and dangerous. The second son was the spiritual state of Israel and the majority of modern churches today. They say yes, but their actions reveal no. They are not doing what they said they would do because they are living in a state of apostasy from the Truth. There are many who claim they live by and teach the three angels' message, but in reality they do not live by nor teach it. They claim they are following the health message but they promote Satan's poisonous drugging system. They say that they do not believe in murder but they have funded and performed thousands of abortions in their church hospitals and clinics. They say they believe in the creation science of God, but in reality they are taught and teach evolutionary theories under the guise of "modern science." They say that the Bible says LGBTQ is wrong, but they still support it.

As a result of the Jewish leadership and their followers rejection of Jesus, what judgment did Jesus pronounce on their "compromised" church system?

Matthew 23:37-38

- 37 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.**

Are you in a house full of truth or desolate of the truth? Does it really matter?

Remember that Israel rejected the truth, Jesus. So, the TRUTH left. When TRUTH leaves the house what leaves with it? TRUTH. Who comes in TRUTH's place?

Matthew 12:43-45

- 43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.
- 44 Then he saith, I will return into **my house** from whence I came out; and when he is come, he **findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.**
- 45 Then goeth he, and **taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself,** and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

What did Jesus call this compromised church system that rejected truth?**Matthew 21:12-13**

12 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.**

Den (Greek) spēlaion *spay'-lah-yon*: a cavern; by implication a **hiding place** or resort: - cave, den.

A den is a dark place where anyone can hide without notice. The leadership of this compromised system kept their true purposes of greed and covetousness in the dark from the people. **By stealth they robbed the people from the truth, and sold them lies! What did the leadership get exchange of the lies? Money, prestige, control, and power! Jesus exposed them!**

Don't miss this! Because of the compromise of truth, the law and the testimonies, "My house of prayer" became "Your house left desolate"

After Jesus pronounces His judgment on this compromised "church" system at the end of chapter 23, what did the disciples do?

Matthew 24:1 And Jesus went out, and **departed** from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to **shew him the buildings of the temple.**

Mark 13:1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, **see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!**

Luke 21:5 And as some spake of the temple, **how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts...**

In other words the disciples were bragging about a house that Jesus just pronounced as desolate! The disciples missed it. They were still caught up in the outside beauty of the church, but ignored the spiritual corruption and darkness on the inside. **They saw the pomp and display but missed the corrupt and apostate state of the Jews and its leaders.**

What is the Laodicean church of "modern" Israel saying today?

Revelation 3:17 **Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.....**

Continuing... **But what did Jesus say was their true condition?**

Revelation 3:17 **...and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**

Like the Israel of old, modern "Israel" says we have the "truth" but Jesus says you have are not living by the truth. Modern "Israel" says look at our buildings, churches, and schools. "Don't they look beautiful. But Jesus says they are ALL wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. **Why? Because Jesus left.**

What did Jesus say would happen to the temple as the disciples were proudly showing Jesus the outward beauty of the temple?

Matthew 24:2 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.**

Here, Jesus reveals to the disciples the execution of God's judgment on Israel as a result of their rejection of Him, the Truth.

The LAW of Rejecting Truth:

Anytime a person rejects TRUTH, what will follow sooner or later? Destruction!

After Jesus made this shocking revelation, what did the disciples ask Jesus?

Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Jesus then gives a dual prophecy of the signs of the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world in Matthew 24.

What warning did Jesus give to the disciples and us first, before he revealed the signs?

Matthew 24:4, 5

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed (beware) that no man deceive you.**

5 **For many (great majority) shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**

Christ reveals that many will act like they are "like" Christ. Many will say, "I am a christian." In other words, like the Israel of old, many will look "pretty" on the outside, but inwardly "filthy, dirty, and corrupt."

From verses 6 - 36 Jesus gives signs of the dual prophecy and emphasizes the events that will proceed and happen during His second coming.

Many times we apply Matthew 24 to "them people" who are in "Babylon" and not modern Israel who profess both the law and the testimonies. Also, who professes the seventh-day Sabbath and the second coming of Jesus.

In context of Matthew 23 and 24, who is the main subject? A compromising people who had the truth, but rejected the truth! They had the law and the testimonies. They say that they were following it, but where not.

What is a major sign that reveals we are living in the last days before the second coming of Jesus?

Matthew 24:37 - 39

37 **But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

38 **For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,**

39 **And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

As the days of Noah, what was the fate of those eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage when the flood unexpectedly came and took them ALL away? They were lost.

What does this all mean? What is God revealing here? Let's break this down...

What were the days of Noah like?

Genesis 6:5, 6, 11

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.**

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and **the earth** was **filled** with **violence**.

How did this happen?

Even after Cain killed Abel, did God have a pure people "church" who believed the truth, the law and the testimonies through the lineage of Seth, the one who replaced Abel? Yes!

Seth followed the truth and passed it on to his children, but something happen that caused the whole earth to become evil.

The answer is clearly revealed in Matthew 24:38... What caused the corruption of the whole earth in the time of Noah and causes the corruption in the last days?

Matthew 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were **eating** and **drinking**, **marrying** and **giving in marriage**, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

In the context of verses 37 – 39 it is apparent that what they ate and drank, married and give in marriage was a major reason why they were lost.

What were they eating and drinking that caused them to be lost?

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Exodus 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.

Deuteronomy 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Those lost during flood and at the end of time, reject God's health covenant, His health message, and eat and drink to the **glory of self** that leads to destruction! They ate foods and drunk things that violated the laws of the body that caused sickness and disease. They had faith in a system of poisonous drugs rather than the natural remedies of God.

What do the lost refuse to eat and drink spiritually at the time of the flood and in the last days?

John 6:53, 54

53 Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.**

54 **Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.**

Instead of spiritually eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Messiah, they ate and drunk the things of the world. They ate the “flesh” of the world. They drunk the intoxicating wine of Babylon!

Don't miss this....

What you eat and drink, physically as well as spiritually will determine who you marry and give in marriage!

What is “marriage”? A binding eternal contract or agreement between a man and a woman.

Does it matter who you marry and why you marry? YES!

What is “giving in marriage”? This is a parent giving their daughter or son away in marriage. In other words, the parent gives their final approval and permits the marriage.

Remember, in the time of Noah before the flood wickedness was great on the earth, but why so great? What happened to those who were of the lineage of Seth, the people of God taught of the truth, both the law and the testimonies?

Genesis 6:1, 2

1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 That the sons of God (people of Seth - TRUTH) saw the daughters of men (people of Cain - ERROR) that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

The people of SETH who had both the law and the testimonies, (the seventh-day sabbath and the testimonies of Jesus) compromised first by eating and drinking the things of the world and eventually made a contract in marriage to the world. The people of Seth – TRUTH married the people of Cain – ERROR! The parents gave approval of the marriages. As a result, the earth was full of sin and violence and God had to destroy the earth by flood!

Going back to Matthew 24:37 – 39 Jesus is actually comparing the compromise of God's people in Noah's day to the last days just before the coming of the Lord. Like Israel of old and the people of SETH, they had a full knowledge of God's truth, they knew both the law and the testimonies. They knew the seventh-day Sabbath and the advent of Christ. When they ate and drank worldliness they eventually compromised and married worldliness and gave the youth in marriage to those in worldliness! Matthew 24 actually reveals a compromised Seventh-day Adventist corporate church in the last days.

God reveals to us, when you see this know that time is extremely short and Jesus is soon to come!