

334: May 26: Be What You Seem (New Testament Week 21)

Outline:

Intro

Housekeeping

Reading Invitation

Reading Review

Devotion, Literature, History

Preview:

Conclusion

Reading: Mark 11; Matthew 21-23; Luke 19-20; John 12

Intro

The theme of the reading is also the motto of NC, *Esse quam Videri*

Housekeeping

Lisa Salisbury designed our logo; check out her work: www.wellwithlisa.com and <https://www.facebook.com/wellwithlisa>

Podcast is a gift freely given... I just need enough supporters to keep the gift going (comment about listener Kyle being worried about "Freeloading") I don't want anyone to EVER feel anxious about not donating when they can't, or even have more important priorities. I respect that! I just hope the listeners who can donate will, so everyone else can keep getting it for free.

Please email me your questions and comments!

Reading Invitation

Jesus says: Line up your words and actions. God pays attention to ACTIONS. We should too.

Who are you? All of us are different in different contexts, but we should be able to explain to ourselves and others why we are different, and there should be congruent principles that flow through all our interactions. That's what integrity means--we act the same whether people are aware or not. It's been said that if you want to know someone's true character, look to see what they do when no one is looking. And if you want someone at their best, hold them accountable (Harari's idea of not having dating apps or job interviews, just plug into someone's phone/virtual assistant!)

Hypocrisy vs. diplomacy (wise as serpents, harmful as doves). Ask yourself: Am I being careful about how I present myself for their sake, or my own??

Accountability and grace (some of us are too hard on ourselves, some of us are too easy on ourselves, most of us are too hard on ourselves about some things and too easy on ourselves about other things)

Triumphal entry (think about how poignant this is, knowing what is coming)
Truth to power:

334: May 26 Week 21 Mt 21-23; Mk 11; Lk 19-20; Jn 12

Mk 11

Triumphal entry, temple tantrum, death set in motion (talk about poignancy of this)

Mt 21

Fig trees, mountains, and answers to prayers. Does God give us everything we ask? We already know no is the answer.

Parable of two sons. I so relate! I often say no/don't want to talk about that, then do it, in part because it helps me manage feeling overwhelmed. I'm working on being better.

Mt 22

God and Caesar (balancing making a living and discipleship)

Mt 23

Hypocrites! Jesus tears into the scribes and Pharisees, religious elite. Core take home message. "They do not what they teach" (23:3) "you look righteous to others on the outside, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness"

Lk 19

Zacchaeus, appearance and reality (people thought he was a sinner, when in reality he was a devoted disciple. Wasn't worried about embarrassing himself climbing a tree to get to Jesus, though he was rich and a tax collector, he gave half his wealth to poor and if he felt he cheated someone, gave them four times what he shortchanged)

19:26: Virtuous and vicious cycles. (Life is like chess, think several steps ahead, and advantage/stability will accumulate, Olivia story)

Lk 20

Peace and glory, echoing the angels to the shepherds

20- Luke makes it more explicit "pretending to be righteous so they might catch him in his word and so that they could hand him over to the rule and authority of the governor"

Then they flatter him

Resurrection: woman had seven husbands... (levirate marriage) reminder about marriage in heaven

Jesus then uses the scripture the Sadducees believed in to make a comment on resurrection (God is God of the living based on Exodus 3)

Jn 12 (John is so different!)

Jesus abundantly anointed (Spikenard was the most costly perfume, reserved for royalty)

12:27 Should I say "Save me from this hour? As if!"

When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to me (2 Ne. 26)

Reminder: We can simultaneously have relationship with God and Christ, faith in the gospel, and have a responsible relationship to literature and history.

Life application:

Literary:

Note how Matthew escalates and increases the drama of the events (crowds, everyone, entire city, etc)

Matthew's donkey skiing mistake (Zecharian 9:9) "Tell the daughter of Zion, behold your king comes, meek and riding a donkey, a colt that is the foal of a donkey" (parallelism) but Matthew loves doubles so much he doubled to absurdity

Historical

What got Jesus killed

EP Sanders and triumphal entry

(My theory about triumphal entry and temple tantrum)

Mark and "you have made it a cave of bandits", written in 69

Testimonia and writing of the NT (why does David call him Lord; stone that was rejected has become the cornerstone from Ps. 118)

Preview: JST-Mt 1; Mt 25; Mk 12-13; Lk 21 (Apocalypse Then and Now)

Conclusion: Win the game by putting down the game.

I deeply believe we can dedicate ourselves to being congruent, internalizing the gospel, being what we seem. Principle and practice. We won't be attached to success or status.

Which means are are more likely to get success and status!