

Teaching Outline

Lesson #11

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree and Rebukes the Religious through 3 Parables

Matthew 21:12 – 22:14

I. The Historical Background

A. The Three Day Sequence

1. The Triumphal Entry
2. The Temple Cleansed
3. The Fig Tree Cursed

B. Jewish Religion and Nation Rejected by Jesus (Matthew 21:43)

Principle: No one comes to God, the Father, who does not come through God the Son, and because Israel did not claim the Son, she had no claim on the Father.

II. Jesus Transitions From Rejection of Nation to Instruction of the 12

A. Mountain Moving Faith

Principle: Our faith must be based on God's word, God's will and God's character.

Principle: There must be genuine life to exercise genuine faith.

B. The Unconditional Will of God

- a. God ordains the Outcome regardless of what anyone else does.
- b. God sovereignly decides the outcome and nothing can change it.

C. The Conditional Will of God

- a. Man must qualify with certain conditions if prayer is to be answered.
- b. Conditions that must be met for Mountain Moving Faith to be activated:
 1. Faith in God
 2. Speak to the Mountain (Pray)
 3. God's Alignment of the circumstance and the petition
 4. Purity of heart
 5. Forgiveness
 6. Proper View of God

Principle: Mountain Moving Faith is activated by sincere petition to God according to His word, His will and His character.

Principle: Men of faith always cooperate with God, and God operates through men of faith.

III. The Final Trilogy of Parables

- A. The Disobedient Son
- B. The Wicked Tenants
- C. The Wedding Invitation

Principle: Man's rejection of Jesus' invitation results in rejection by God and eternal punishment

Lesson #11
Series 3 – Story 12

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree
And
Rebukes the Religious through Three Parables
Matthew 21:12 - 22:14

**MAN’S REJECTION OF JESUS’ INVITATION RESULTS IN REJECTION BY
GOD AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.**

Story Outline:

- I. Cleansing of the Temple
- II. Cursing of the Fig Tree
- III. Confidence in Prayer
- IV. Condemnation of Israel

Life Application Principles:

1. Purity of heart is essential to genuine worship that pleases God.
2. We must allow Jesus to uncover and cleanse the depravity of our hearts.
3. Misuse of the temple of God results in judgment.
4. Fruit bearing is the sign of a transformed life in which the power of God is operating.
5. Barrenness is evidence of a state of lostness and life without the presence of God.
6. Fruitfulness is evidence of genuine salvation.
7. Empty religion often manifests outward trappings that can be hypocritical.
8. Faith is essential to perform the work of God in our lives.
9. Our prayers are always answered when they are in harmony with God’s will.
10. Religion without a personal relationship with Jesus is an abomination and cursed.
11. Pride and rebellion will keep one from a relationship with God.
12. Judgment and cursing is the result of rejecting Jesus.

NAME OF JESUS

Devotional Reading

JESUS CHRIST - CORNERSTONE

Something that has always intrigued and impressed me is ancient architecture. How is it that men of old could build extremely large and ornate structures, such as towers, pyramids, palaces, temples and coliseums, with only the use of their hands, primitive tools and crude assistive devices? How is it that many of them were built so structurally sound that they are still standing today? Without the help of modern technology and science, how did they know where to start and more importantly where to go to ensure they were building something that would be strong, sure and secure enough that they could live and move about in it for years and even centuries to come? According to my research, the key to their successful building was the cornerstone, or foundational stone of the structure. Carefully selected, perfectly shaped and confirmed to be solid and strong, it was the first stone laid by the builder and the one upon which everything else was constructed. It was the starting place from where the builders carefully measured and determined the placement of every other stone. As such, the cornerstone was essential to keeping the walls straight and the building upright. It was also the indispensable place where the walls were joined together and on which the total structure rested. So vital was the cornerstone, that if it was removed, the entire structure would eventually collapse and become uninhabitable.

Gaining a bit of knowledge about the significance of the cornerstone in ancient building helps us understand why Jesus is referred to throughout the Scriptures as the **CORNERSTONE**, or the foundational stone of our faith. It also helps us understand why God would refer to His Son, whom He dearly loved, as the “*precious Stone*” on which He is building His Kingdom and His Church. Christ’s life, His word, His wisdom and His presence are the sure things, the perfectly shaped things, the solid and strong things, that support and hold ALL THINGS in the entire universe together. Even more, they are the very things that form the foundation of His church and that have the power to keep His children and His church from failing or collapsing under the pressures of this world. Jesus Christ, the **CORNERSTONE** is the starting point of our faith and the never-failing Rock on whom we can base our lives because His life is a steady and indestructible life. When we, by faith, come to Him, we find that He is a firm foundation and a solid **STONE** of strength, who has all the qualifications and power within Himself to equip us to live holy and upright lives, to keep us safe from danger and harm and to deliver us into the glorious Kingdom of God at the end of the age.

*“Therefore, the Lord God said, ‘Look, I have laid a Stone in Zion, a tested Stone, a precious **CORNERSTONE**, a sure foundation; the one who believes will be unshakable.’” (Isaiah 28:16, CSB)*

In his letters Paul has much to say about Christ, the **CORNERSTONE** that helps us in our understanding of His relationship to His Church and His children.

*“So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the **CORNERSTONE**, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you are also being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19-21)*

“And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church.” (Colossians 1:17-18)

Thus, as a cornerstone is to the strength and vital qualities of a structure, so Christ is to His Church. He is the indispensable **CORNERSTONE**, the unique and essential foundation, on which the Church and her members must be fixed in order for her to function rightly as God has intended. Ann Spangler writes: “As Christ’s followers, we are now living stones, integral parts of a structure that is being built to last forever. Joined to Christ as the **CORNERSTONE** and to our brothers and sisters, we are living stones cemented together by bonds of faith.” As such, we form one big spiritual family over whom Jesus Christ is the Head. Knitted together by faith in His life, death and resurrection and held fast by His eternal presence and unequalled power, we now live securely in a place of refuge from the pressures and storms of life. And in turn, as His body we are called to be a place of refuge, safety and hope for others . . . to be the very hands, feet and heart of Jesus in this difficult and dark world. My dear friends, have you, by faith, linked your life to Jesus Christ, the **CORNERSTONE**? Are you now building your life on His firm foundation? And, if so, are you actively fulfilling your role as a living stone in His Church for the sake of others and the glory of God?

Peter teaches us more about this role when he writes:

“As you come to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:5,9)

Wherever you go and in all that you do, are you shining the marvelous light of Jesus into the darkness of this world, so that the lost, the rebellious, the prideful and the religious might see Him and turn from their destructive ways? And are you boldly proclaiming the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ, sowing Gospel seeds with much prayer and supplication, so that by your sacrifice and love many may hear the Word and be saved? Are you ministering to the sick, the hurting, the hungry, the poor, the widow, the troubled, and the depressed so that they might be encouraged and find hope in their times of need? It is for this that you have been chosen, saved

and given a place in Christ's church . . . to serve and honor the Lord in your body and in the world.

Beloved remember always, the gifts that come to those who build their lives on the “precious **Stone**” of God are far beyond what any other god, any other thing or any other man on earth can ever provide. When we are weak, Christ our **CONERSTONE** is strong. When we are anxious and loaded down with cares, Christ, our **CORNERSTONE** is reliable and trustworthy to carry us through. When we have doubts and our hearts are faint, Christ, our **CORNERSTONE** links us to the truth and upholds us with His righteous right hand. When we are tempted and tried, Christ our **CORNERSTONE** is the stronghold of our lives who keeps us from falling into the traps set by the enemy. Indeed, in every circumstance and every situation we encounter we can trust in Christ our **CORNERSTONE**. He will hold us fast and secure. He who never slumbers or sleeps will keep us from failing and collapsing under the pressures of this world. Press this important truth into your mind and heart: To build your life and place your trust in anything or anyone other than Christ the **CORNERSTONE** is not only foolish, but it is the sure path to pain, death and eternal destruction. IN HIM is the only strong, sure and secure place to live!

Regarding this truth, Jesus Himself said,

*“The Stone that the builders rejected has become the **CORNERSTONE**; and the one who falls on this Stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” (Matthew 21:42,44)*

For the one who believes, Jesus the **CORNERSTONE** is the best thing he has have going for him, for in Christ he is always safe and secure. However, for the one who refuses to believe in Him, Jesus becomes “a stone”, over which one falls and is broken...sometimes forever. Instead of being the “precious **CORNERSTONE**” of life and the reliable Rock of eternal salvation He becomes to them a “Stone of stumbling” and, without repentance, a “Rock of offense” that leads to eternal destruction in hell. The hard truth is “if you reject the Savior, you will be forced to feel His full weight. Boundless in power, infinite in majesty, the whole weight of Him will fall upon you. The full weight of the Incarnate God in the day of His wrath – you will have to bear!” (Mary Ann Bishop)

Dear friends, may this truth cut you to the heart and move you to action today. The one who rejects Jesus Christ, the one who chooses to build his life on anything in heaven above or earth below except Christ the **CORNERSTONE**, the just and holy wrath of God will fall. May this not be true of you! The results are far beyond anything you can truly imagine. Thus, I ask you . . . Are you faithfully building your life solely on the Lord Jesus Christ and His word? Or are you, like the religious leaders of Jesus' day, busy building your life and the Kingdom of God on your own wisdom or that of the world? Have you become so caught up in working for the Lord that you have neglected His word and fallen into Satan's seductive traps that lead to destruction? If so, confess your sin and grave error today. Ask Jesus to cleanse you, to chisel off the rough-hewn places that are causing you to sin and to “re-set” you in His Holy Temple that you might be a

renewed living stone, a strong and effective building block in His Kingdom for His glory. Then place your feet firmly on the never-failing foundation of Jesus Christ and stay there. Ask the Him to cement you firmly into place so you may never again wander off into danger and disgrace.

**“Behold, I am laying in Zion a Stone of stumbling and a Rock of offense;
Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”
(Romans 9:33)**

THE DOCTRINE

“MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH”

Matthew 21:12 – 22:14

Someone once defined faith as “the effort to believe what your common sense tells you is not true.” Although this is more a definition of superstition than faith, most people who jest about faith do not realize just how big a part it plays in our everyday living. It takes faith to get married, because marriage vows are basically promises. It takes faith to send children to school. It takes faith to get a prescription filled for pharmacists do sometimes make mistakes. And to take the medicine when we get it also takes faith for doctors can also make mistakes. It takes faith to eat in a restaurant, deposit money in a bank, sign a contract, drive on the highway, or get on an airplane or an elevator. Faith isn’t some kind of religious experience for the elite; it is the glue that helps hold people’s lives together, from the infant nursing at her mother’s breast to the senior citizen waiting for the Social Security check.

Faith however, is only as good as its object, therefore, if we have faith in people, we get what people can do; if we trust money, we get what money can do; if we trust ourselves, we get what we can do --- BUT if we trust God – we get what God can do. God must be the object of our faith for a mountain (an impossibility) to be moved!

Four Facts About Faith

Hebrews 11, the great faith chapter in the Bible presents 4 basic facts about faith.

1. Faith Begins with a Revelation from God.

The heroes mentioned in Hebrews 11 acted in response to what God said to them to do, because “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17). Faith means listening to what God says in His Word and then acting upon it.

2. Faith Grows Out of a Relationship with God.

Warren Wiersbe illustrates this point with the following example: Suppose you are shopping in a department store and a total stranger approaches you and says, “I think you should loan me \$500.00 so that I can buy a new washing machine.” My guess is that you would either ignore him or say to him, “I am very sorry, but I don’t do business that way.” Obviously offended, the stranger would probably reply, “What’s the matter with you? Don’t you trust me?” I can hear your answer: “Trust you? I don’t even KNOW you!”

Trust is a relationship that can be built only over a period of time. To hand \$500.00 to a total stranger and expect to get it back isn’t faith – its presumption. The people whose faith is described in Hebrews 11 were people who walked with God and had a growing

relationship with God. They knew that His character was such that His word could be trusted.

3. Faith Motivates Us to Do the Will of God.

Pay attention to the verbs in Hebrews 11: Abel offered an acceptable sacrifice; Noah prepared an ark; Abraham went out; Abraham offered his son; Moses chose Israel over Egypt, and on and on it goes. True faith isn't feeling good about what God says; it is DOING what God says. Faith isn't discussing the will of God; it is obeying the will of God. James 2:20 states: ". . . . faith without works is dead."

4. Faith When Acted Upon, Gives Us the Witness of God.

"For by it (faith) the elders obtained a good testimony" (witness), Hebrews 11:2. This means that they received God's approval for what they did. God witnessed to Abel that his sacrifice had been accepted, and to the martyrs that their faith was accepted and rewarded. True faith rests on the objective Word of God, but it is witnessed to subjectively by the Spirit of God. Faith is "the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1), and the word translated "evidence" means "conviction." When we have true biblical faith, it produces the inner conviction that God will do what He says. IN fact, the very presence of this faith in our hearts is proof that God wants us to trust Him for the miracle – the impossibility.

When you put these four realities together, you can see what it means to trust God. It is however easy to read words, but far more difficult to exercise trust, especially when a great challenge is looming before us. Trusting God means thinking and acting according to God's Word in spite of circumstances, feelings or consequences. The object of our faith is God – not our feelings, not faith itself, but almighty God. Faith therefore, is only as good as the object.

People often sing about faith and talk about faith, but tragically know little about the nature of our faithful God or the "word of faith" that Paul speaks of in Romans 10:8. It's a kind of masquerade people play to bolster their spirits and encourage one another. How strange that they can have faith in faith and faith in feelings, but they cannot have faith in the Word of the living God! Maturing in the Christian life depends on the growing of our faith. The Christian life begins with faith and develops only through faith. We walk by faith and we stand by faith. So serious is this matter of believing God that Paul warns us, "For whatever is NOT FROM FAITH is sin!" (Romans 14:23). The writer to the Hebrews observed, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 2: 8; 2 Corinthians 1:24)

One of the key scriptures regarding faith of the entire Bible comes from Habakkuk 2:4: "But the just shall live by his faith." So important is this verse that the Holy Spirit wrote three New Testament books to explain it: Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews. Romans tells us **who "the just" are**; Galatians tells us **how "the just" live**; and Hebrews emphasizes **that "the just" live "by faith."** The phrase "by faith" is found 19 times in the book of Hebrews.

Paul reminds us on multiple occasions, we aren't just saved by faith – we also live by faith. “And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Four Questions that Determine Whether One is Living by Faith

1. Is what I'm doing based solidly on God's Word? (Romans 10:17)

“So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”

Faith is our obedient response to God's revelation to us. It doesn't matter how we feel, what the circumstances are, or what the consequences may be. We obey God because we have confidence in His Word. Whether it is Noah building an ark, Abraham offering up his son, Moses and the people of God crossing the Red Sea, or Joshua taking a city, the faith sequence is the same; *Relationship* with God, *Revelation* from God, *Response* of obedience and *Reward* from God. Today we have the unchanging written Word of God that we can read, study, meditate on, and Peter tells us that the written Word is better than marvelous experiences with the Lord (2 Peter 1:16-21). On the Mt. of Transfiguration, Peter, James and John behold Christ's glory, saw Moses and Elijah in glory, and heard the Father's voice out of the glorious cloud; but Peter affirms that the Word of God is superior even to this glorious experience. We can't franchise a spiritual experience, but we can give people the Bible and trust the Holy Spirit to teach them. The Word of God and the Word of God alone is the basis for our faith. It reveals the character of God and records His mighty works, both of which encourage us to believe and obey.

2. Am I willing to wait? (Romans 10:11)

“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

This verse in Romans comes from Isaiah 28:16 where it reads, “Whoever believes will not act hastily.” Since the Holy Spirit authored both verses, He has the right to change and expand them; and it doesn't take much insight to discover that there is a relationship between the two; whoever acts hastily will end up being ashamed! When God leads you to do something by faith, He will give you the patience to wait on His timing. You will be among “those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” . . . referred to in Hebrews 6:12. The God of patience gives us patience and encouragement through the Scriptures. Patience is a mark of a maturing servant of God. Faith not only does God's will, but it does God's will in God's timing. Therefore, if I find myself impatient and anxious to rush ahead, I can be certain that what I am doing is not in the will of God. For believers walking by faith, waiting is always preparation for the next step. It is a time for watching and praying, seeking to discern what Satan may be doing, making our plans, and taking inventory of our resources. Nehemiah began to pray for Jerusalem and the day he actually asked the king for help, but during that time, he got himself and his plans

ready for the perfect timing of God which would send him on his way and into accomplishing God's great mission.

3. **Do I have joy and peace? (Romans 15:13)**

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace IN BELIEVING, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

True biblical faith does bring with it inner peace and joy despite the circumstances we are in or the consequences we may be facing. God's Spirit gives to God's believing people a peace that surpasses all understanding, a calm in the midst of the storm, and an inner confidence in the heart of the battle. Peace is the possession of adequate resources. This explains the courage and the confidence of those who walk by faith. It isn't the arrogance that could come from our own experience, training, or ability, but rather it is the boldness that comes when you know that God, without a doubt, is on your side and fighting the battle with you!

4. **Will what I do glorify God? (Romans 4:20)**

Paul said of Abraham: “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.”

One reason the Lord waited 25 years to give Abraham and Sarah the promised son Isaac was to allow them to be “as good as dead” so they couldn't claim any credit for themselves. Jesus allowed Lazarus to die because raising him from the dead would glorify the Son of God (John 11:14). Faith takes ordinary people (including failures) and enables them to do extraordinary things. That is why faith glorifies God! The choice Moses made to leave Egypt and go into the desert was contrary to human nature, for who would give up an easy and honorable position in Egypt for the tough job of molding a mob of slaves into a nation and leading them to their promised inheritance? Who would reject the pleasures and treasures of Egypt for hardship in the wilderness? When because we see the invisible we choose the imperishable, then we can do the impossible; and God gets the glory! (Hebrews 11:23-29: a description of the faith of Moses). As a wise pastor put it: “If you can explain what's going on, God didn't do it!” (Dr. Bob Cook: The Maturing Christian: Faith).

These four tests should help the maturing Christian distinguish between faith and presumption. One mark of the maturing Christian is the development of stronger faith. Just consider the following statements of Jesus to various people and note that there are indeed degrees of faith in the Christian life.

“Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” (Mark 4:40)

“Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 8:26; 14:3)

“Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” (Matthew 8:10)

“O woman, great is your faith!” (Matthew 15:28).

No faith, little faith, great faith. It is also strange that the great faith belonged not to an orthodox Jew but to a Roman centurion and a Gentile mother!

Encouraging Faith to Grow Along With Warnings to Heed

As we learn to walk and live by faith, we must beware that *our feelings can be deceptive and lead us astray*. We must also understand that as a believer *we must not test our decisions the way the world tests its decisions*. The fact that experts approve of a decision does not make the decision right – for experts have often been known to be wrong. If your closest relative or dearest friend advises you to do something, it doesn’t mean that God is pleased with the advice. In many things, it’s right and proper to please the people we love, but NOT when it comes to matters of faith. Therefore, *the way of faith is often a lonely road*. Rather than be unpopular and hurt those we love, we seem to think it is easier to take the scientific approach and walk by sight. It is easier – until we begin to reap the harvest of our foolish decisions. Sarah told Abraham what to do and then blamed him and God for the problems her suggestions created! It is not easy to walk by faith in a world that prefers to walk by sight.

We must always *remember that the word of God generates faith, and when we believe and obey, the power of God is released*. God’s word is living and powerful and faith releases that life and power – power enough to move a mountain as Jesus taught his disciples in the cursing of the fig tree!

Faith grows when we pray. The apostles said to Jesus, “Increase our faith!” (Luke 17:5). Jesus didn’t rebuke them for their prayer but He did teach them that quality of faith helps to determine quantity of faith. He compared faith to a mustard seed, not because that particular seed is small, but because, though it is small, the little seed has life in it and can produce remarkable results. When the seed of faith is “watered” with prayer, it will increase and enable us to do exploits that will bring great glory to God.

You don’t learn to swim just by watching videos and reading books. You dive into the water and start moving! *Trials are to our faith what exercises are to our muscles; they help them develop*. Satan tempts us in order to bring out the worst in us, but *God tests us to bring out the best in us*. God is wise in the ways he tests us, always suiting the test to the specific needs of the believer; and He is loving and gracious in how He tests us, giving us just what we need to endure and overcome. He knows just how long and just how much.

The ministry and memory of faithful spiritual leaders ought to stimulate the faith of the people to whom they have ministered. ***Faith grows when we are challenged by the examples of godly spiritual leaders.*** When I hear missionary speakers tell what God is doing around the world, my faith grows! Christians with little or no faith are fearful people who doubt God and His word, and do a great deal of worrying. They cannot really minister to others or give a strong witness to the lost. Instead of walking by faith and claiming their inheritance in Christ, they are wandering in the wilderness of unbelief and missing God's best for their lives. We must always remember Jesus' words: "According to YOUR FAITH – let it be to you!" (Matthew 9:29).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read: Matthew 21:12-17 (Jesus Cleanses the Temple)

1. (Skim Matthew 21:1-11) Where are Jesus and His Disciples? At what point in His earthly life and ministry of Jesus are these events taking place?
2. How did the people respond to Jesus as He entered Jerusalem? DO YOU THINK the majority of the crowd truly understood WHO Jesus was and WHY He came? Explain.
3. What did Jesus do when He entered the Temple? Why?
4. According to vv. 13,14 & 16, what 3 things does Jesus teach or model that He desires to take place in His house?
5. How do the Chief Priests and Scribes react to Jesus' actions? WHAT DO YOU THINK was at the heart of their "indignation?" According to v.17, what was Jesus' ultimate response to them?

Read: Matthew 21:18-22 (Jesus Curses the Fig Tree)

6. Fruit is a product of life. The presence of leaves on a tree usually indicates the presence of fruit, yet this fig tree had no fruit. How did Jesus react to the fruitless fig tree? What did He say and what happened to the tree?
7. (Challenge) Read Jeremiah 8:13 & Hosea 9:10,16. From these passages, what does the fig tree symbolize? What are some important lessons you learn from Jesus' response to the fruitless tree?

8. The disciples were amazed the fig tree withered at once. How did Jesus answer them? What lessons about prayer and faith do you learn from His Words?

Read: Matthew 21:28-32 (The Parable of the Two Sons)

9. Who do the two sons represent in the story? What did the father ask his sons to do? How did each son respond? Which of the two did the father's will?
10. Ponder Jesus' response in vs. 31-32. WHAT DO YOU THINK is the main point of this parable?

Read: Matthew 21:33-46 (The Parable of the Tenants)

11. According to vs. 33-40 who do the following characters represent:
- a. Landowner_____
 - b. Vineyard (see Ps. 80:8, Is. 5:1-2 for help)_____
 - c. Tenants_____
 - d. Servants_____
 - e. Heir/Son_____
12. How does the landowner respond to the treacherous tenants? What does this teach you about the ultimate fate of those who reject Jesus Christ?

Read: Matthew 22:1-14 (The Parable of the Wedding Feast)

13. Who is initially invited to this wedding feast? How they respond?

14. What are some excuses people use today to not accept Jesus Christ's invitation into His Kingdom?

15. In v.15, what do you think the wedding garment represents? What is the ultimate fate of all who refuse Jesus' invitation for salvation?

16. (Personal) Reflecting on all the Parables we have studied, what evidence of genuine salvation and fruit bearing has been manifested in your life?

How will you continue to watch, prepare and serve bringing others into the Kingdom of God!

JESUS, THE CORNERSTONE

To build your life and place your trust in anything or anyone other than **Jesus the CORNERSTONE** is not only foolish, but it is the sure path to pain, death and eternal destruction. How did this devotional reading help you better understand this aspect of WHO Jesus is and WHY He came? Is there any application or personal conviction from this truth that has impacted your life and faith this week? Please share.

SALVATION QUESTION

When others look at your life, do they see one who practices religion or one who "practices the presence" of the Most High God through a relationship with Jesus. Will you open your heart to Jesus today and allow Him to come into your life to make you His true child that you might bear fruit for His Kingdom and His glory.