

SANCTIFICATION (PART 9)

PRACTICAL ATHEISM

Practical atheism is evident in man's resistance to God's authority, which culminated in Christ's death on a cross.

I. The Logic: resistance to God's authority is practical atheism

A. No two kings can rule simultaneously

B. Establishing a new authority requires the overthrow of the current one

C. Sin seeks to establish an authority other than God

II. The Illustration: Matthew 21:23-46

A. The opposition to Jesus' authority (v. 23)

B. The unmasking of the Jews' hypocrisy (v. 24-46)

1. With a question, revealing their idolatry

2. With a parable, indicting their unbelief

3. With a parable, recounting their practice

III. The Question: Who would participate in the murder of God?

- A. Murderers (Mk 14:1; cf. 1Jn 3:15)
- B. Schemers (Mk 14:1, 44, 55)
- C. Man-fearers (Mk 14:2)
- D. The greedy (Mk 14:4-5; cf. Jn 12:4-6)
- E. Disloyal friends
 - 1. Judas (Mk 14:10-11, 18-21, 43-45)
 - 2. The disciples (Mk 14:27, 50)
 - 3. Peter (Mk 14:29-30)
- F. Those who rejoice over evil (Mk 14:10-11)
- G. The religious (Mk 14:10, 43, 53)
- H. The self-confident (Mk 14:29-31, 46-49)
- I. The proud (Mk 14:29)
- J. Prayerless people (Mk 14:34, 37-41)
- K. Violent men
 - 1. The mob (Mk 14:43, 46, 48)
 - 2. Peter (Mk 14:47)
 - 3. People at the trial (Mk 14:65)
 - 4. Guards (Mk 14:65)
- L. Cowards
 - 1. The disciples (Mk 14:50)
 - 2. The young man (Mk 14:51-52)
 - 3. Peter (Mk 14:54, 66-71)
- M. Liars (Mk 14:55-59; 14:68, 70-71)
- N. Hypocrites (Mk 14:4-5, 60-64; 15:1)
- O. Fault-finders
 - 1. False witnesses (Mk 14:55-59)
 - 2. The high priest (Mk 14:60-64)
- P. Mockers (Mk 14:65)