

Fall 2022 Exegesis Exam

Ministry Context

Matthew 21:33-46

You are preaching a series of sermons on the parables of Jesus. You decide to preach on Matthew 21:33-46.

Section I: Language, Historical Situation, and Scriptural and Theological Context

Language of the Text

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

First Required Response

Discuss the meaning of $\eta\lambda\eta\eta$, one of the Hebrew equivalents of the $\kappa\lambda\eta\rho\varsigma$ word group, in three Old Testament texts (one from the Pentateuch, one from the Historical Books, and one from the Prophetic writings).

Explain how the understanding of these antecedent traditions informs your interpretation of $\kappa\lambda\eta\rho\nu\acute{o}\mu\omicron\varsigma$ and $\kappa\lambda\eta\rho\nu\omicron\mu\acute{\iota}\alpha$ in Matthew 21:38. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

Historical Situation

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Second Required Response

Discuss the customs relating to tenant farming in the first century CE Greco-Roman context.

Explain how this historical understanding of tenant farming informs your interpretation of Matthew 21:33-46. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

Scriptural and Theological Context

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Third Required Response

Compare the vineyard stories found in Matthew 21:33-46 and Isaiah 5:1-7.

Explain how this comparison informs your interpretation of Matthew 21:33-46. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

Scriptural and Theological Context

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Fourth Required Response

The Scots Confession (3.04) states:

We constantly believe that God, after the fearful and horrible departure of man from his obedience, did seek Adam again, call upon him, rebuke and convict him of his sin, and in the end made unto him a most joyful promise, that “the seed of the woman should bruise the head of the serpent,” that is, that he should destroy the works of the devil. **This promise was repeated and made clearer from time to time; it was embraced with joy, and most constantly received by all the faithful from Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to David, and so onwards to the incarnation of Christ Jesus; all (we mean the believing fathers under the law) did see the joyful day of Christ Jesus, and did rejoice.** (emphasis added)

Discuss a Reformed understanding of the church’s continuity with Israel as expressed in the highlighted sentence from the Scots Confession.

Explain how this informs your interpretation of Matthew 21:43. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

Section II: Careful and Critical Interpretation

Write an essay presenting your interpretation of Matthew 21:33-46 based on your full exegetical study of the passage (not just material presented in Section I). Support your interpretation by a careful and critical analysis of the text that reflects the use of scholarly resources. *Limit your essay to 1,200 words.*

This essay must *focus on the biblical text* and provide a basis for your application in Section III: Application. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section II.

Section III:

Application

Provide an outline or summary of themes for your sermon that addresses the required ministry context:

You are preaching a series of sermons on the parables of Jesus. You decide to preach on Matthew 21:33-46.

Your work must be based on your careful and critical interpretation of the biblical text presented in Section II. *Limit your work to 600 words.*

Your response to Section III *must* address the ministry context.

Works Cited

In the text box below, provide a list of all resources cited in your exam responses. Do not include in this list any Internet link that indicates a seminary library or commercial bibliographic database that is available only through subscription or library account (e.g., <https://ezproxy.presbysem.edu/>).