

# Unmasking the Impostor Son

*Matthew 21:33-43*

**Main idea:** To help the congregation understand the importance of recognizing and embracing the true identity of Jesus, and the dangers of holding onto a false image of Him.

**Topic:** Killing the Son

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Suggestions for moving forward with the sermon:

1. Emphasize the concept of the true identity of Jesus: Expand on the idea of unmasking the impostor son by exploring the true nature and character of Jesus. Highlight passages that reveal his divinity, such as John 1:1-14, Colossians 1:15-20, and Hebrews 1:1-4. These verses can help reinforce the importance of recognizing and embracing the authentic Jesus.
2. Explore the concept of crucifying the false self: Build upon the idea of crucifying the false image of Jesus within us by delving into the concept of dying to self. Refer to Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:6-7, and Colossians 3:5-10 to illustrate the process of putting to death our old selves and allowing Christ to live in us.
3. Discuss the consequences of rejecting the true Son: Use Matthew 21:33-43 as a foundation to explore the consequences of rejecting Jesus as the true Son. Highlight the parable of the vineyard and how it relates to the rejection of Jesus by the religious leaders. Connect this rejection to the dangers of embracing a false image of Jesus and the potential consequences it can have on our spiritual lives.

4. Address the importance of discernment: Stress the need for discernment in recognizing false teachings or distorted images of Jesus. Incorporate passages like 1 John 4:1-3, Matthew 24:24, and 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 to emphasize the importance of testing every spirit and being aware of deceptive teachings.

5. Provide practical steps for embracing the true Son: Offer practical suggestions for listeners to cultivate a genuine relationship with Jesus and avoid falling into the trap of a false image. Encourage practices such as studying Scripture, prayer, seeking guidance from mature believers, and relying on the Holy Spirit for discernment.

Language suggestions and additional verses:

1. In Matthew 21:33-43, the Greek word "apokteino" is used for "kill" or "slay." You can explain the significance of this word, which implies a violent death, to emphasize the seriousness of crucifying the false image of Jesus within us.

2. Consider incorporating Hebrews 12:2, which speaks of Jesus as the "author and perfecter of faith." This verse can reinforce the idea of embracing the true Son and allowing Him to shape and transform our faith.

3. Explore the concept of "taking up the cross" in Luke 9:23-24 and Matthew 16:24-26. These passages can further illustrate the need to crucify the false self and follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

Remember to weave these suggestions into your sermon in a way that reinforces your current ideas and supports your main point.