

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 83 - The Triumphal Entry - Matthew 21:1-11

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

MT 21:1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, [2] saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. [3] If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

MT 21:4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

MT 21:5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion,
`See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

MT 21:6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. [7] They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. [8] A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. [9] The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna* to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna* in the highest!"

MT 21:10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

MT 21:11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 83 - The Triumphal Entry - Matthew 21:1-11

1003. To where was Jesus traveling? With whom? (21:1)

1004. Through what village were Jesus and His disciples passing? (21:1)
1005. How were the disciples instructed to answer anyone who might object to their actions? (21:2)
1006. Jesus sent two of His disciples to find and return with what? Why? (21:2-3)
1007. Why was this incident significant? (21:4-5)
1008. How did the two disciples respond to Jesus' instructions? (21:6)
1009. When the men returned with the donkey and colt, what did Jesus do? (21:7)
1010. What did the gathered crowd place on the road? Why? (21:8)
1011. What size crowd participated in welcoming Jesus? (21:8)
1012. What did the crowds shout as Jesus entered Jerusalem? (21:9)
1013. How did this "parade" affect those living in Jerusalem? (21:10)
1014. What did the crowd accompanying Jesus say about Him to those in the city? (21:11)
1015. How would you answer if a friend asked, "Who is Jesus?"
1016. How might we be able to change our city or campus or country if we honored Christ as King over all?

Lesson 84 - Jesus at the Temple - Matthew 21:12-17

MT 21:12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. [13] "It is written," he said to them, " `My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a `den of robbers.' "

MT 21:14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. [15] But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

MT 21:16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,

" `From the lips of children and infants

you have ordained praise' ?"

MT 21:17 And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 84 - Jesus at the Temple - Matthew 21:12-17

1017. After entering Jerusalem, where did Jesus go? What happened there? (21:12)

1018. What did Jesus do in the temple area? (21:12)

1019. What sort of goods were being sold in the temple courts? (21:12)

1020. What did Jesus quote to those in the temple? (21:13)

1021. Jesus accused the merchants of turning the temple into what? Why? (21:13)

1022. What kinds of handicaps and infirmities did Jesus heal while at the temple? (21:14)

1023. What were the children in the temple area shouting? (21:15)

1024. How did the chief priests and teachers of the law feel when they heard the children shout praise to Jesus? (21:15)

1025. What did the religious leaders ask Jesus? (21:16)

1026. How did Jesus answer the religious leaders? (21:16)

1027. What did Jesus do when He left the temple? (21:17)

1028. How do you think God would like to alter some of the practices churches and ministries use to raise money?

1029. How do you think God would like to alter some of the ways you use money?

Lesson 85 - The Fig Tree Withers - Matthew 21:18-22

MT 21:18 Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. [19] Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

MT 21:20 When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked.

MT 21:21 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. [22] If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 85 - The Fig Tree Withers - Matthew 21:18-22

1030. Where was Jesus going? When? (21:18)

1031. What was Jesus feeling? When? (21:18)

1032. What caught Jesus' attention? Why? (21:19)

1033. What did Jesus discover when he made a closer inspection of the fig tree? (21:19)

1034. What did Jesus do to the fig tree? (21:19)

1035. What happened immediately after Jesus cursed the fig tree? (21:19)

1036. How did the withered fig tree incident affect the disciples? (21:20)

1037. What did the disciples ask Jesus? (21:20)

1038. What did Jesus cite as the necessary ingredient to doing "impossible" things? (21:21)

1039. What even more amazing feat than causing a fig tree to wither did Jesus claim was possible? (21:21)

1040. What attitude did Jesus encourage us to have in prayer? (21:22)

1041. What requirements must our prayers meet?

1042. In what ways might you be giving others a false idea of what the Christian life is all about?

Lesson 86 - The Authority of Jesus Questioned - Matthew 21:23-27

MT 21:23 Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

MT 21:24 Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. [25] John's baptism--where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?"

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'" [26] But if we say, 'From men'--we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

MT 21:27 So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 86 - The Authority of Jesus Questioned - Matthew 21:23-27

- 1043. Where was Jesus when the incidents of this passage occurred? (21:23)
- 1044. What was Jesus doing when He was interrupted? (21:23)
- 1045. Who interrupted Jesus? Why? (21:23)
- 1046. What questions did the chief priests and the elders ask Jesus? (21:23)
- 1047. What deal did Jesus make with his accuser? (21:24)
- 1048. Jesus' question dealt with what subject? (21:24)
- 1049. What were the only two possible answers the religious leaders could give? (21:25-26)
- 1050. What was the drawback to claiming that John's ministry was divinely inspired? (21:25)
- 1051. What was the risk of claiming that John had no divine authority? (21:26)
- 1052. How did the religious leaders finally respond to Jesus? (21:27)
- 1053. What reply did Jesus give to the chief priests and elders? (21:27)

Lesson 87 - The Parable of the Two Sons - Matthew 21:28-32

MT 21:28 "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

MT 21:29 " 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

MT 21:30 "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

MT 21:31 "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. [32] For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 87 - The Parable of the Two Sons - Matthew 21:28-32

1054. Who are the main characters in this parable? (21:28)
1055. In the Parable of the Two Sons, what did the man say to his first son? (21:28)
1056. How did the first son respond to his father's words? (21:29)
1057. What happened to the first son later? (21:29)
1058. What did the man say to his second son? (21:30)
1059. How did the second son respond to his father's words? (21:30)
1060. What did the second son actually do? (21:30)
1061. What question did Jesus ask His audience at the end of the parable? (21:31)
1062. Who did Jesus claim would be in heaven before the religious leaders in His audience? (21:31)
1063. According to Jesus, who came to show the Jews the way of righteousness? (21:32)
1064. How did the religious leaders respond to John's message? (21:32)
1065. If the Jewish religious leaders were trained in the Law and familiar with the Old Testament, why did they oppose Jesus?
1066. If Jesus really is the King of kings and Lord of lords, why do we often drag our feet doing what He has told us to do?

1067. What does it mean to repent?

Lesson 88 - The Parable of the Tenants - Matthew 21:33-46

MT 21:33 "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. [34] When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

MT 21:35 "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. [36] Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. [37] Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

MT 21:38 "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' [39] So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

MT 21:40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

MT 21:41 "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

MT 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

" 'The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes' ?

MT 21:43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. [44] He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

MT 21:45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. [46] They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 88 - The Parable of the Tenants - Matthew 21:33-46

1068. How did the landowner in this parable prepare his vineyard? (21:33)
1069. What did the landowner do at harvest time? (21:34)
1070. How did the tenants of the vineyard treat the landowner's servants? (21:35)
1071. What did the landowner do after his servants were attacked? (21:36)
1072. How did the landowner's alternative plan work? (21:36)
1073. What solution did the landowner finally decide on? (21:37)
1074. How did the tenants react to the landowner's choice? (21:38-39)
1075. What end did Jesus predict for the wicked tenants of the parable? (21:40-41)
1076. What did Jesus quote to the religious leaders? (21:42)
1077. How did Jesus personalize or apply this parable and Scripture to the nation of Israel? (21:43-44)
1078. What did the religious leaders realize when they heard Jesus' parable? (21:45)
1079. What did the chief priests and elders try to do? (21:46)
1080. Why didn't the chief priests and elders carry out their plan at that moment? (21:46)
1081. What does the vineyard in this parable represent?
1082. Who do the tenants of the parable symbolize?
1083. Of whom are the servants and the son representative?