

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 41

Lesson 41– Jesus In Jerusalem - Jesus Tells Three Parables

Background:

As we have seen previously Jesus often told parables. The parables were intended to be understood by those who were open to hear and veiled to those who had hardened hearts.

In this section we will look at 3 parables Jesus told that all related to future events. They are aimed directly at the religious leaders who questioned His authority in verses 23-27 and also to the disciples and other listeners and bystanders while He taught in the temple courtyard.

Read: [Matthew 21:28-22:14](#)

Read the Following Quote based on the Parable of the Two Sons:

“The key to the correct understanding of this parable is that is not really praising anyone. It is setting before us a picture of two very imperfect sets of people, of whom one set were none the less better than the other. Neither son in the story was the kind of son to bring full joy to his father. Both were unsatisfactory; but the one who in the end obeyed was incalculably better than the other. The ideal son would be the son who accepted the father’s orders with obedience and with respect and who unquestioningly and fully carried them out.” [William Barclay](#)

Questions:

How do you think this parable relates to the Jewish leaders? Which son do you think you are most like?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Matthew 21:28-32](#)

Parable of the Two Sons

1. What did the farmer ask his sons to do? Describe how the sons behaved. Do you think either son obeyed his father? Which one?

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2. Why does Jesus say that corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes would be more likely to see the Kingdom of God than the religious leaders? Based on what you have learned up to this point, do you think that the religious leaders were obedient to God, their Father? What did they need to do? (verses 31-32)

Parable of the Evil Farmers [Matthew 21:34-46](#)

3. Describe the vineyard that the landowner built in verse 33. What might the vineyard represent? Who might the tenant farmers represent?

4. What happened when the landowner decided to collect from his tenant farmers at harvest time. (verses 34-39) Who might the servants and the son represent? How would you describe the behaviour of the tenant farmers?

5. Jesus then asks the religious leaders what the landowner should do. What is their response? Do you think their answer is fair and just? How would the authorities deal with someone who behaved like the tenant farmers today?

6. Jesus quotes an Old Testament passage. Where is it from and what does Jesus imply it means? (verses 42-44)

7. Do the religious leaders understand the parable? What or who do they finally realize the parable is about? What did they plan to do next and did they succeed? (verses 45-46) How would you react if Jesus told a parable like this about you? Why do you think the religious leaders respond the way that they do? Why is it difficult to repent?

The Parable of the Great Feast [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

8. Tell the parable of the Great Feast or Banquet in your own words. What are your first impressions of the parable?

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9. Who do you think that the king and the son represent in this parable? Who do the original guests represent? (verses 5-6). Who do the second set of guests represent? (verses 9-10) Who responded well to the king's invitation? Who might the man in verse 11 represent?

10. What is your opinion of this parable? Do you think it is frightening or encouraging? If Jesus asked you directly to come to a feast, would you want to come? What might prevent someone from accepting the invitation?

11. Now read [Revelation 19:6-9](#) where John records the vision God gave him about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Who is the Lamb? Who is invited to the marriage feast? Do you expect to be there? On what basis can someone be at this feast?

Suggested Prayer:

Heavenly Father we are both saddened and excited as we read these parables about sons, farmers and feast. We know and believe that you have a plan that you are carrying out. We are confident that what you say you will do, you will accomplish. Lord, we pray on behalf of our friends and family members who are not yet believers. Open their eyes that they might understand and come to believe that they too, are invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, because of the blood Jesus shed for us on the cross. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

For Further Reading:

[What is the marriage supper of the Lamb?](#)

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