



Parables of the Kingdom – 2

**Leader's Notes**

*Answers to the blanks:*

**Their question:** v23                      “And who gave you this authority?”

**Jesus' answer:**                              Matthew 21:24-27

“Who gave John the Baptist authority?”

Three parables about Israel and the Kingdom

1. **PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS**                      **Matthew 21:28-32**

Jesus' question: v31                              “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

The answer:                                      v31                              “The first.”

The first son was                                      The tax collectors and the prostitutes

The second son was                                      The religious leaders themselves



Although this parable was given to the leaders of Israel, there are lessons we can learn from it. What are they?

- God loves all of us. Both were called ‘sons’ in the story.
- God is calling all of us to work in the vineyard. In the story both sons were asked to work, but only one obeyed in the end.
- It is important we keep our commitment to God. When we say we will obey and serve Him, we need to do it. Words without actions are useless.
- Those who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven are those who obey Him.

2. **PARABLE OF THE TENANTS**                      **Matthew 21:33-45**

Who was Jesus speaking about in this story?

The landowner is God

The vineyard is Israel

The servants are the prophets

The tenants are the religious leaders

The son is Jesus

**Jesus' question: v40** "When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do with those tenants?"

**Their answer: v41** "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants."

## 2. PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET Matthew 22:1-14

### Discuss

What do you think is the meaning of the story in Matthew 11:11-14?

- In a wedding during the time of Jesus, people would wear special clothes to the banquet. Jesus uses this to teach a truth about the Kingdom of Heaven.
- In the first part of the story the servants had gathered all the people they could find and invited them to the wedding. V10. This is what the disciples had been doing. We are also to be like these servants and invite everyone to come in.
- Those who were invited to the wedding had to wear the right kind of clothing. Jesus is teaching that it is only those who are wearing the 'right clothes' who can enter His Kingdom.
- When the man was found not wearing the wedding clothes he was thrown out into darkness. Jesus is showing us that unless a person has the 'right clothes' he will be thrown into hell.
- In v14 Jesus says, "For many are invited but few are chosen." This is the main point of this parable. Everyone is invited into the Kingdom of God, but not all will obey Him. It is those who obey, who show they are the chosen ones.

### Discuss

It is important that we are ready. How can we prepare ourselves for this wedding? Also see Isaiah 61:10, Revelation 19:8 and Colossians 3:12-14.

- When we repent of our sin and turn to Christ, we are made righteous in God's sight. This means that when God looks at us it is just as if we have never sinned! The Bible says we are now clothed with the robe of righteousness or the garments of salvation. However it is important that we yield to the Holy Spirit daily so that we are clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, as it says in Colossians.

*Close with the conclusion given on the worksheet.*