

Parables of the Kingdom – 2

The Gospel of Matthew begins with the birth of Jesus, and then moves on to tell us about His three and a half years of public ministry. These years were coming to an end and Jesus knew the time had come for His crucifixion. Matthew 20:17-19. Now He goes to Jerusalem for the last time. After entering the city He went into the Temple and drove out everyone who was buying and selling there. ‘This is a House of Prayer’, He told the people. No doubt the Chief Priests and Elders were angry, so the next day they asked Jesus a question. See Matthew 21:23.

Their question: v23 _____

Jesus’ answer: Matthew 21:24-27

Jesus knew they would not believe His answer. Instead of answering their question, He asks them a question: “Who gave _____ authority?”

They refused to answer, so Jesus refused to answer their question directly either! Then He went on to tell them 3 parables, and the answer to their question was hidden inside the stories.

Three parables about Israel and the Kingdom1. PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS **Matthew 21:28-32**

Jesus’ question: v31 _____

The answer: v31 _____

The first son was _____

The second son was _____

When Jesus explained the parable He showed the religious leaders that John the Baptist had been given authority by God to warn them. They were like the second son who refused to obey the father.

Jesus had answered their question. John the Baptist had been given authority by God and John had pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. Since they refused to believe, others would enter the Kingdom of God first.



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

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

Who was Jesus speaking about in this story?

The landowner is _____

The vineyard is _____

The servants are _____

The tenants are _____

The son is _____

Jesus' question: v40 _____

Their answer: v41 _____

Often the meaning of the parables were hidden, but the religious leaders understood this one! They knew Jesus was speaking about them. V45. They were the ones who had rejected the Son. And the Son had been given authority by the landowner, who was God. This answered their question, "Who gave you authority?"

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

The third parable is really two stories about a wedding feast.

Discuss

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

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.

The religious leaders had asked Jesus, "Who gave you authority?" He did not answer their question directly, but showed them through the parables that His authority came from God. However they were like:-

- The son who did not obey the father in the first parable
- The tenants who killed the son in the second parable
- Those who refused the invitation to the wedding banquet in the third parable.

Others were now being invited to the wedding. However there is a condition. We need to be wearing the right clothes. Are you wearing those wedding garments?