

## Parables of Jesus part 21

Various Scriptures

“Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will shatter him.” -Matthew 21:44

**Would you rather someone tell you how much they love you or show you how much they love you? Why?**

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Matthew 7:21-23

As it relates to our relationship with our heavenly Father, we learn throughout the Bible that God is more concerned that our \_\_\_\_\_ line up with His \_\_\_\_\_. Another word for this is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Context:** Jesus has made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. After entering and cleansing the temple on the first day, he returns on the next day and begins teaching in the same temple. While he was teaching, the chief priest and elders began to question his authority. In response Jesus questions them about John the Baptist but because of their cowardice and \_\_\_\_\_ they chose not to answer Jesus. As a result, Jesus tells them two parables, both warning and condemning their actions.

### ● The Parable of the Two Sons: Matthew 21:28-32

Who are the people in the parable? Who did they represent when Jesus told it?

**A Man:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Two sons:** \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (Hint; 2 classes of people in Israel)

Notice the details of the father’s request; He went to each son individually saying, “My son, go work today in my vineyard.”

\*The father asked each son to work ... this work involved participating together in the family business.

\*The father asked each son to work today ... not some distant time in the future but right away.

\*The father asked each son to work today in my vineyard ... since it belonged to the father, it should have also mattered to the sons.

How did the first son respond? What did he say and do? verse 29

“I will \_\_\_\_\_,” but afterward, he regretted it and \_\_\_\_\_.

How did the second son respond? What did he say and do? verse 30

“I go, sir,” but he did \_\_\_\_\_ go.

Was the behavior of either son wholly commendable? Why or why not? As you reflect on their answers and actions, what is one thing you would say to encourage a person who isn't working in God's vineyard as they should?

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In response to this brief parable, Jesus asks, "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to him, "The \_\_\_\_\_."

➤ **Application: Matthew 21:31-32**

Both groups heard the message from John the Baptist. By correctly answering Jesus' question in the parable, the chief priest and elders condemned themselves.

In light of the text, the tax collectors and prostitutes represent the son who refused to obey God at first, then later repented. The leaders on the other hand spoke the right words, claimed to know God but did not back it up with their actions.

**Cross references:** Isaiah 29:13; James 2:18

**Why were they condemned?**

\*They did not have \_\_\_\_\_.

"For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him;"  
-Matthew 21:32a

\*They refused to \_\_\_\_\_.

"And when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him." -Matthew 21:32c

**Now that you know who the two sons were in Jesus' day, who do you think they represent today?**

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**Why doesn't religious knowledge or information guarantee that we will do what God wants us to do?**

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1 Corinthians 8:1

**In God's eyes, works and more valuable than words...**

## ● The Parable of the Vineyard Owner: Matthew 21:33-46

This parable is also recorded in Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19 which lets us know this is very important!

### Preparation of the vineyard owner: verse 33

Who does the certain landowner represent? Psalm 24:1-2

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What does the vineyard represent? Isaiah 5:1-7 Notice the description...

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\*The vineyard was planted by the landowner.

\*Set a hedge around it.

\*Dug a \_\_\_\_\_ press in it.

\*Built a watchtower.

\*leased it to tenant farmers.

Who does the tenant farmers represent?

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### Harvest of the vineyard owner: verse 34

What does the fruit represent? Matthew 9:38

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That which belongs to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Wickedness of the tenant farmers vs. Grace of the vineyard owner: verse 35-39

Who were the land owners servants? 2 Chronicles 24:20-21; Nehemiah 9:26; Matthew 5:11-12

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Over and over the landowner showed grace and patience with the tenant farmers. Likewise this represents how gracious and patient God was with the Jews. Yet and still, they persecuted and rejected the prophets all the way up to John the Baptist.

Just like the tenant farmer's were disrespectful and disobedient in their behavior, the Jews did not do what the Lord commanded and they turned \_\_\_\_\_ from God (Judges 2:17). In spite of all of this, the landowner kept showing grace and patience. It seemed like the more grace he showed the more wicked they became.

Finally, he sent his son to them, "They will respect my son," he said, but of course they didn't. Verse 39 says they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

Notice their rationale, Why did they kill the son?

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For his \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, they wanted to **take** something that wasn't theirs. Remember Satan's m.o. is to steal, kill, and destroy. John 10:10

**The Judgement of the Landowner: verses 40-43**

Just like in the previous parable, Jesus asks a question, "What will he (landowner) do to those farmers?"

Again their answer was self-condemning...

\*He will completely destroy those **terrible men**

\*He will lease his vineyard to **other farmers** who will give him his fruit in harvest

In response Jesus said, Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is what the Lord has done and it is wonderful in our eyes? Psalm 118:22-23

**How often do you read the Scriptures? What is one thing you can do to read them more? What is one thing you can do to help you understand them better?**

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\*Because of their **actions**, Jesus said, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people (nation) producing its fruit.

**Who is this nation? 1 Peter 2:9**

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**Application: verses 44-46**

How will you respond to the cornerstone? Will you **build** with it, **stumble** over it, or be **crushed** by it?

**What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?**

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**"You are what you do, not what you say you'll do."**