

# Community Group Question Guide

## Matthew 21:18-27 – Life Changing Authority

<sup>18</sup> *In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry.*

<sup>19</sup> *And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once.*

<sup>20</sup> *When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither at once?”*

<sup>21</sup> *And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen.*

<sup>22</sup> *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”*

<sup>23</sup> *And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”*

<sup>24</sup> *Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things.*

<sup>25</sup> *The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’*

<sup>26</sup> *But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”*

<sup>27</sup> *So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. *ESV**

- From where was Jesus returning to Jerusalem? What do you make of that given the spectacular events of the day before?
- Matthew is very purposeful in his ordering of scenes. Does this relate to events of the day before? Why? Why not?
- In V20 the disciples marvel. What do you make of this? Is this the question you would have asked?
- What do you make of Jesus' statement in V21? What do you think he's talking about? What do you think the mountain is to which he refers?
- V22 sounds pretty good. Does this mean we can all be rich, have the best in possessions, comfort, the best of health, and more? Why or why not?
- What do you think led to the chief priests' and elders' challenge to Jesus in V23?
- Why do you think Jesus outfoxes his questioners here instead of being open about his authority?
- What kept the religious authorities from arresting or even challenging Jesus further here? Why would that be a problem for them since they are the leaders?
- What relationship, if any, do you see between the two scenes in this text?
- How does this scene shape your understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven? Does it change or shape your thinking? If so, how?