



# theridgechurch

## **LIFEgroup Discussion Questions**

**August 4, 2013**

**Matthew's Gospel: The way of the Kingdom of God – Repentance and Rejection**

**Read Matthew 21.23-46**

1. Before you dive into the text make sure everybody knows the context and setting. Remember this very text is written about what occurred on Tuesday of Passion Week.
2. Who are the chief priests and elders (21.23)? What specifically are they questioning Jesus about (21.23)? What has He done to make them question His authority? Think about, authority. What is it? Who has authority? Why don't we sometimes like to bend to authority? What authority does Jesus have (Matthew 28.18) and where does it come from (Matthew 3.16-17; John 14.31, 16.15, 28)? Why do the religious leaders have a problem with Jesus and what He is doing?
3. How does Jesus respond to their questioning (21.24-25)? Why does Jesus refer to the baptism of John the Baptist (21.25)? What are the religious leaders displaying as they reason together about how to respond to Jesus (21.25-26)? What does their answer show (21.27)? Jesus had set the terms, as far as answering the leaders, but they did not answer him, so how does He respond and answer them (21.27-44)?
4. As you look at the first parable, who do the two sons represent (21.28-32)? What allows one entrance into the kingdom of God according to this parable (21.29, 32)? What was significant about John's ministry (Matthew 3.2, 8 and John 1.36)? What would you say *the way of righteousness is* (21.32)?
5. In the second parable, what do all the metaphorical images represent (21.33-40)?
  - The landowner?
  - The vineyard?
  - The tenants (vine-growers)?
  - The slaves (servants)?
  - The son
6. What is the irony about the response of the religious leaders to the parable (21.41)? Who is the chief corner stone and what is so marvelous (21.42)? What is Jesus' final application (21.43-44)? What does He mean by taking away and giving to another people (21.43)? Who are these people that are producing the fruit of the kingdom (21.43; 1 Peter 2.9-10)? What does this mean personally to each in your group who is a believer and is part of the church? What fruit if being produced from your life?
7. What is the final response of the leaders to Jesus' application of the parable to them (21.45-46)?

## **Pray.**

**Announce:** *First Tuesday, Aug 6 is right around the corner. Men, be there at 6:30 pm for dinner and we will wrap up at 8 pm. Be sure to RSVP on the online calendar on the website.*