

# Jesus' Response in the Temple When Challenged About His Authority

## Matthew 21:23–22:14

### Contextual Observations:

- Mt 21:1 - The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
- Mt 21:23 - "When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching . . ."

<p><b>Jesus' Authority Challenged</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question Posed: "By what authority are You doing these things?"</li> <li>• Jesus' Response: What was the source of John's authority?</li> </ul>	<p><i>Jesus Responds in Parables</i> →</p>			
	<p><b>Parable 1 — The Two Sons Working in the Vineyard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Son – "I will not" but later he did</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Son – "I will" but later he did not</li> <li>• They did not even believe John the Baptist</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parable 2 — The Landowner's Vineyard and the Murderous Vine-growers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalm 118:22</li> <li>• Rejection of the "cornerstone" (vs 42) will result in judgment by the "stone" (vs 44)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Interlude — The Reaction of the Chief Priests and Pharisees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They understood He was speaking about them</li> <li>• They were in fear of seizing Him (the people thought Jesus a prophet)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parable 3 — The Improperly Dressed Guest at the Wedding Feast</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation to the wedding feast ignored</li> <li>• "Armies . . . Set their city on fire" (AD 70 events!)</li> <li>• Invitation goes out to all to come</li> <li>• Wedding Feast – King examines guests</li> </ul>
21:23-27	21:28-32	21:33-44	21:45-46	22:1-14

Parable 3 also directed at the Priests & Pharisees: "Jesus spoke to them again in parables . . ."

### Kingdom Insights



**21:31 – Kingdom Entrance Forfeited**  
"the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you"

**21:31 – Kingdom Responsibility Removed**  
"the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing the fruit of it" (21:43)

Vs 2 – "The kingdom of God may be compared to . . ."

**22:13 – Judgment In Store**

- "Bind him hand and foot"
- "Throw him into the outer darkness" (weeping and gnashing of teeth)

**22:14 - Final Lesson**

- Many called / few chosen

• Mt 22:15 - "Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said."