

7. To confirm the sentence which they had pronounced on themselves, Jesus then quoted from Psalm 118:22, 23. Write that Scripture here: (Matthew 21:42) _____

In other words, they were rejecting the heir of the Kingdom, God's beloved Son. He said the kingdom of God would be taken away from the Jewish leaders and given to another nation. Who ever fell on this Stone (Christ) would be broken, but whoever it fell upon would be ground to powder (Matthew 21:44). The first figure here, seems to refer to someone stumbling over Christ and being crushed; like a water jar of pottery shattered when falling on a rock. The second figure is clearly that of judgment.

8. What did the Pharisees perceive concerning Jesus? (Matthew 21:45) _____

The chief priests and Pharisees could not fail to see this parable was spoken against them Matthew 21:45. They were the wicked husbandman representing the previous leaders of the nations who had killed the prophets (servants). Now they themselves were about to kill the Son. The kingdom would be given to the Gentiles. Furious,---they wanted to kill Jesus, but they feared the people, who believed Him to be a prophet (Matthew 21:46).

THIRTY THIRD STUDY

LAST PUBLIC MINISTRY PART II

JESUS' AUTHORITY QUESTIONED (Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8)

The day before this (after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem) He had cleansed the temple and rebuked the Pharisees in public. Upon seeing Him the Pharisees came to Him in the wrong attitude, not as men should come.

1. (a) What was He doing when they came to Him (Matthew 21:23) _____
(b) What was their question? (Matthew 21:23)

Jesus answered them (as He did many times in His ministry) with a question: *The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?* He had already told them on previous occasions the source of His authority in John 6:37; 10:36, 38.

2. What did they reason within themselves, saying? (Matthew 21:25, 26) _____

Being good politicians, they merely said, *We cannot tell.* Jesus' reply was, *...neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.*

PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS (Matthew 21:28-32)

Having exposed their rejection of John, the popular prophet, Jesus told a parable to illustrate their disobedience to the will of God.

1. What did the certain man (who represents the Father) ask of his two sons? (Matthew 21:28,30) _____

2. (a) What did the first son say, but do? (Matthew 21:29) _____

- (b) What did the second son say, but did not do? (Matthew 21:30) _____

Jesus, then, asked the Pharisees which of the two did the will of the father. They answered back, *The first*. Jesus explained to them, "There are wicked people, publicans and harlots, who have repented and now seek to do God's will. They are believers in John, whom ye refuse to endorse. And you who pretend to do God's will, do not repent but continue to disobey the will of the Father."

PARABLE OF THE WICKED HUSBANDMAN (Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19)

Jesus began another parable to illustrate and drive home the wickedness of these Pharisees and their awaiting fate.

This is the 42nd parable in the Book of Matthew.

1. Describe the vineyard of the householder. (Matthew 21:33) _____

The householder rented his vineyard to a certain man and went on a long journey. There was an arrangement between the householder and the husbandman that at harvest time each year, they would pay the householder a portion of the harvest. When the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to receive his portion.

2. In Matthew 21:35, What happened to his servants? _____

3. What did the householder do next? (Matthew 21:36) _____

True to their wicked nature, the tenants treated the second group of messengers the same as the first. Then the householder decided to make one more effort to collect his portion and sent his only son, saying, *They will reverence My Son*.

4. But to his surprise, what did they do to his Son? (Matthew 21:38, 39) _____

5. Jesus asked the Pharisees a question in Matthew 21:40. What was it? _____

6. Unintentionally they pronounced their own verdict of condemnation. What was it? (Matthew 21:41) _____