

The Offense

Jesus

R. Leaders

Main Teaching | Everyone | 19 Aug 2025

Matthew 21:1-46 (ESV)

staffmtg.syfc.org.sg | biblestudy.syfc.org.sg

*“I'm not stubborn.
My way is just better!”*

~Maya Banks

*“Stubbornness is like
setting yourself on a path
with your eyes closed.”*

~Adam Ray

Stubbornness

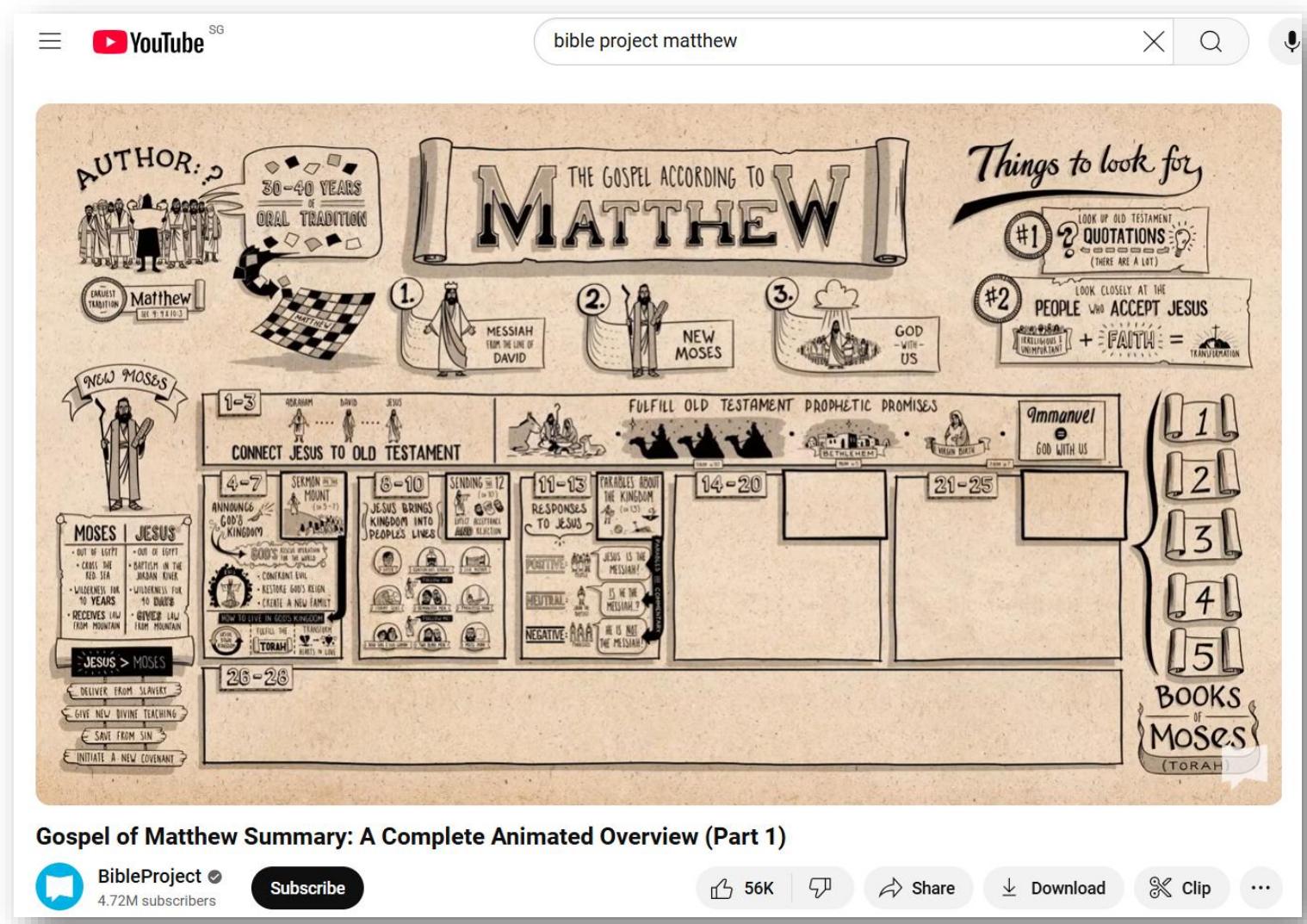
*“He who stands upon his own strength will never stand.”
“He who stands upon God's strength will always stand.”*

~Thomas Brooks

Strongly Recommended:

Watch this 2-Part video once every few weeks, to appreciate the **BIG PICTURE** of the book of Matthew

Part 1: 8mins
Part 2: 7mins



Introduction for MATTHEW

BLOCK 1

*Block
Transition
Narrative*

Mt 1-2: The Promised Messiah has arrived, Jesus Christ

N Mt 3-4: *The Beginning of Messiah's Ministry*

BLOCK 2

B Mt 5-7: *The Kingdom of the Messiah: its Character*

N Mt 8-9: *Jesus' Public Ministry grew under Jesus' authority*

BLOCK 3

B Mt 10: *The Kingdom of the Messiah: its Mission & Messengers*

N Mt 11-12: *First Challenges to Jesus & His Ministry*

• who's IN?

B Mt 13: *The Kingdom of the Messiah: its Reach/Expansion* • who's OUT?

Jesus heading to His Death

N Mt 14-17: *Further Challenges to Jesus & His Ministry*

BLOCK 4

B Mt 18: *The Kingdom of the Messiah: living with one another*

To Jesus & His Ministry

N Mt 19-23: *Jesus heading closer to His Death; Final Challenge*

BLOCK 5

B Mt 24-25: *The Kingdom of the Messiah: wait & get ready for end times*

N Mt 26-28: *The Passion & Resurrection of Jesus*

BLOCK 6

B Matt 28:18-20 By Jesus' Disciples and by Us

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• who's IN?

Jesus heading to His Death

• who's OUT?

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B Matt 28:18-20 By Jesus' Disciples and by Us

BLOCK 4

Among themselves

Response towards
sin against each other
Matt 18:17-35

Crowd

Response towards
sin against God
Matt 18:1-16

God Jesus

Pharisees

Jesus surprises the Pharisees
on marriage, divorce, singleness
Matt 19:3-12

Disciples

Jesus surprises His Disciples
by His willingness to include (C&B)
Matt 19:13-15, 20:29-34

Individuals

Jesus surprises the rich young man
on first will be last, last will be first
Matt 19:16-20:16

living with one another

Jesus surprises the mother & sons
on greatness
Matt 20:17-28

BLOCK 4

Pharisees

Among themselves

Response towards
sin against each other
Matt 18:17-35

Crowd

Response towards
sin against God
Matt 18:1-16

God **Jesus**

Jesus surprises the Pharisees
on marriage, divorce, singleness
Matt 19:3-12

Chapter 21-23

Disciples

Jesus surprises His Disciples
by His willingness to include (C&B)
Matt 19:13-15, 20:29-34

Individuals

Jesus surprises the rich young man
on first will be last, last will be first
Matt 19:16-20:16

Jesus surprises the mother & sons
on greatness
Matt 20:17-28

living with one another

Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

TODAY

Part 1

Jesus'

Kingly Entry

*triggers the crowd's proclamation
v1-11*

Jesus'

Authoritative Entry

*triggers big attention from the ldrs
v12-17*

Part 2

One who misplaces our Faith

*illustrated with a fruitless withered fig tree
v18-22*

Part 3

Religious Leaders' Stubbornness

*not placing their faith in Jesus (King)
v23-46*

● **His Challenge #1a**

using John the Baptist' Authority v23-27

● **His Challenge #1b**

using the Parable of the 2 Sons v28-32

● **His Challenge #2**

using the Parable of the Tenants v33-46

Matt 22:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

NEXT
WEEK

Jesus'
Kingly Entry
with the crowd's proclamation

v1-11

Part 1

Part 3

Part 4

Part 5

Religious Leaders' **Stubbornness**

not placing their faith in Jesus (King)
v23-46

- **His Challenge #1a**

using John the Baptist' Authority v23-27

- **His Challenge #1b**

using the Parable of the 2 Sons v28-32

- **His Challenge #2**

using the Parable of the Tenants v33-46

- **His Challenge #3**

using the Parable of the Wedding Feast 22:1-14

Religious Leaders' **Counter Challenges**

trying to find flaw(s) in Jesus
v15-40

- **P Counter #1** "Lawful to pay Tax to Caesar?" 22:15-22

- **S Counter #2** "Resurrection?" 22:23-33

- **P Counter #3** "Great Commandment in the Law?" 22:34-40

*to evaluate Son of David
The Messianic King*
22:41-46

Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

TODAY

Part 1

Jesus'

Kingly Entry

*triggers the crowd's proclamation
v1-11*

Jesus'

Authoritative Entry

*triggers big attention from the ldrs
v12-17*

Part 2

One who misplaces our Faith

*illustrated with a fruitless withered fig tree
v18-22*



Part 3

Religious Leaders' Stubbornness

*not placing their faith in Jesus (King)
v23-46*

- **His Challenge #1a**
using John the Baptist' Authority v23-27
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- **His Challenge #2**
using the Parable of the Tenants v33-46

Remove > Realign > Relive

Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

TODAY

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Jesus'

Kingly Entry

*triggers the crowd's proclamation
v1-11*

Jesus'

Authoritative Entry

*triggers big attention from the ldrs
v12-17*

Part 2

One who misplaces
our Faith

*illustrated with a fruitless withered fig tree
v18-22*

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Stubbornness

*not placing their faith in Jesus (King)
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using the Parable of the Tenants v33-46

Matthew 21:1-11 (ESV)

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then **Jesus** sent two disciples,

² saying to them, **"Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to Me."**

³ **If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."**

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ **"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"**

c.f. Zech 9:9, Isa 62:11

Observation #1
OT Fulfillment
as **the King**

⁶ The disciples went and did as **Jesus** had directed them.

⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and **He** sat on them.

⁸ Most of the **crowd** spread their cloaks on the road, and **others** cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹ And the **crowds** that went before **Him** and that followed **Him** were shouting, **"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Hosanna in the Highest!"**

Observation #2
PP's Proclamation
Jesus as **the SOD**

¹⁰ And when **He** entered Jerusalem, the **whole city** was stirred up, saying, **"Who is this?"**

¹¹ And the **crowds** said, **"This is the Prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."**



Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

TODAY

Part 1

Jesus'

Kingly Entry

*triggers the crowd's proclamation
v1-11*



Part 2

One who misplaces
our Faith

*reflected in the use of God's temple &
illustrated with a fruitless withered fig tree
v12-22*

Part 3

Religious Leaders'
Stubbornness

*not placing their faith in Jesus (King)
v23-46*

- His Challenge #1a
using John the Baptist' Authority v23-27
- His Challenge #1b
using the Parable of the 2 Sons v28-32
- His Challenge #2
using the Parable of the Tenants v33-46



Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest [with lyrics for congregations]



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Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

TODAY

Part 1

Jesus'

Kingly Entry

*triggers the crowd's proclamation
v1-11*

Jesus'

Authoritative Entry

*triggers big attention from the ldrs
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our Faith

*illustrated with a fruitless withered fig tree
v18-22*

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*not placing their faith in Jesus (King)
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using the Parable of the 2 Sons v28-32

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using the Parable of the Tenants v33-46

Matthew 21:12-17 (ESV)

¹² And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.

¹³ He said to them,

"It is written, 'My house shall be called a House of Prayer,' but you make it a Den of Robbers."

¹⁴ And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He and the children crying out in the temple, ***"Hosanna to the Son of David!"***

Observation #2
PP's Proclamation
Jesus as the SOD

they were indignant, (feeling annoyed)

¹⁶ and they said to Him, ***"Do you hear what these are saying?"***

And Jesus said to them, ***"Yes; have you never read,***

"Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise?" c.f. Ps 8:2, Matt 11:25

Observation #3
Jesus' Entries drew a lot
attention from the R. leaders

¹⁷ And leaving them, He went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

Observation #1
OT Fulfillment
on children's Praise



Imagine

*if you are one of the Religious Leaders
witnessing **Jesus' Entries & People's Proclamation** onto Him*



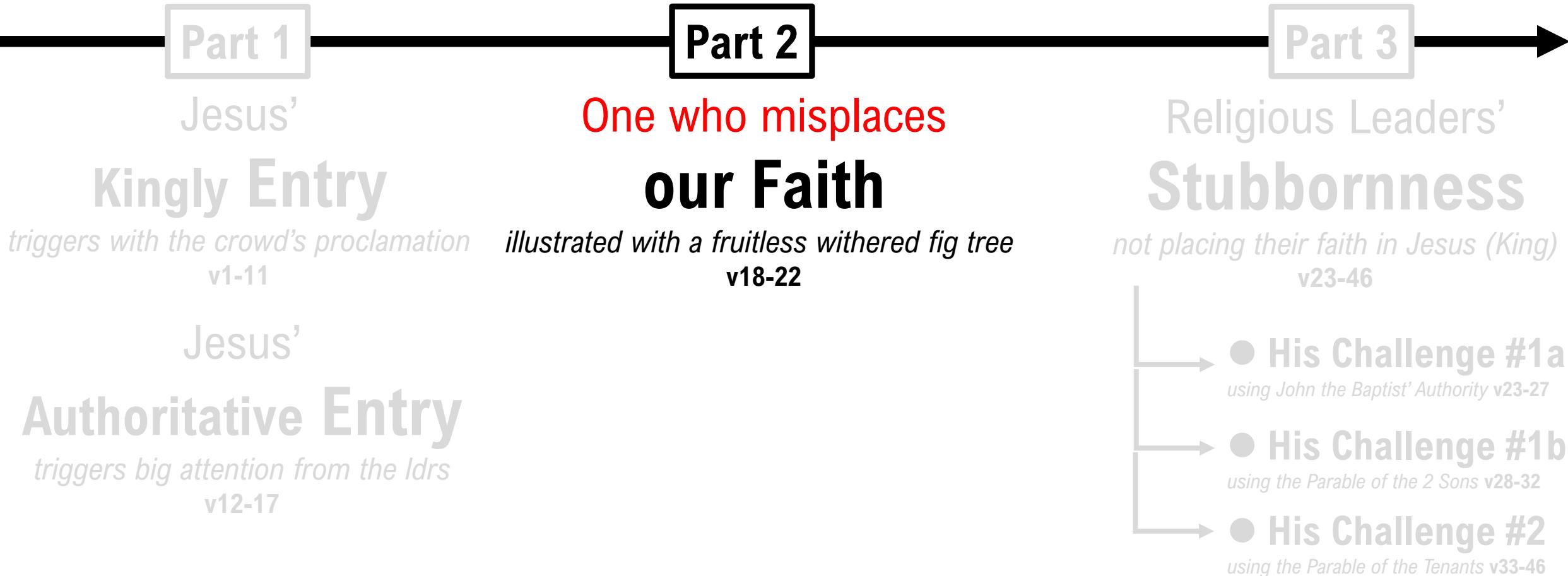
Matt 21:15

*“they were **indignant**”
(feeling annoyed)*

Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

TODAY



Matthew 21:18-22 (ESV)

¹⁸ In the morning, as **He** was returning to the city,
He became hungry.

¹⁹ 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**.

²⁰ When the **disciples** saw it, **they** marveled,
saying, ***"How did the fig tree wither at once?"***

²¹ 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."***

²² ***And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive,
if you have faith."***



Fig Tree Growers Network · [Join](#)

Timothy Tuyên Nguyễn · 19 April ·

I have this fig tree and it has only leaves, no fruits. It's 3 years old... I used Black Kau cow manure this year... What should I do, please advise? Thank you!

facebook



Observation #4

Jesus illustrated that when one don't put **faith in Him** is like ***"a healthy leafy fig tree"*** but ***without fruits*** is **NOT** part of God's kingdom.



As He reveals through His (Healing) Power

progressively accordingly to His own timing

We Understand thru' growing (17:20) faith in Him

progressively

TIME

Setting (17:14-15)

Among the Crowd

- Father brought his son (neuro disorder)
- Disciples can't heal

Frustration over Unbelief (17:17)

- How long am I to be with **you**?
- How long am I to bear with **you**?

"This generation" failed to believe in Jesus
as the Messiah; in His Authority
and His Power as the Son of God.

Cross Ref:

"O you little faith." v20

Matt 8:26 (Calm the Storm)

Matt 14:31 (Walk on Water)

Matt 16:8 (Beware of Leaven of P/S)

Matt 17:20 (Unable to Heal)

Matt 21:21 (Withered Fig Tree)

Answer (17:20)

"Because of your little faith..."

**"If you have faith
like a grain of a mustard seed"**

Question (17:19)

**"Why could we
not cast it out?"** ~Disciples

Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

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Kingly Entry

*triggers the crowd's proclamation
v1-11*

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Authoritative Entry

*triggers big attention from the ldrs
v12-17*

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One who misplaces our Faith

*illustrated with a fruitless withered fig tree
v18-22*

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Religious Leaders' Stubbornness

*not placing their faith in Jesus (King)
v23-46*

● His Challenge #1a

using John the Baptist' Authority v23-27

● His Challenge #1b

using the Parable of the 2 Sons v28-32

● His Challenge #2

using the Parable of the Tenants v33-46

Story Flow

Part 1

Jesus' v1-11

Kingly Entry

Jesus' v12-17

Authoritative Entry

One who misplaces
our Faith v18-22

Part 2

What Jesus Did

Jesus' Actions

offended the religious leaders

Jesus' Teachings

require true faith in Him as the King

Warnings to Ponder On

Have I **truly put my faith** in Jesus
knowing Christ-centred life
is **offensive** to the world?

Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

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Matthew 21:23-46 (ESV)

²³ 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?"

²⁴ 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.**

²⁵ **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_(John)?"

²⁶ **But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."**

²⁷ 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."**



Matthew 21:23-46 (ESV)

The Parable of the Two Sons

28 **"What do you think?"**

A man had two sons.

And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

29 **And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went.**

30 **And he went to the other son and said the same.**

And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go.

31 **Which of the two did the will of his father?"**

They said, **"The first."**

Jesus said to them,

"Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors & the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you."

32 **For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him.**

And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21:23-46 (ESV)

The Parable of the Tenants

33 **"Hear another parable.**

*There was a **master of a house** who planted a vineyard
and put a fence around it
and dug a winepress in it
and built a tower and leased it to tenants,
and went into another country.*

34 **When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.**

35 *And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.*

36 **Again he sent other servants,** more than the first. *And they did the same to them.*

37 **Finally he sent his son to them,** saying, 'They will respect my son.'

38 **But when the tenants saw the son,** they said to themselves,
'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.'

39 **And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.**

40 **When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes,** **what will he do to those tenants?"**

Matthew 21:23-46 (ESV)

The Parable of the Tenants

⁴¹ They said to Him,

"He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴² Jesus said to them,

"Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The Stone that the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

c.f. Ps 118:22-23

⁴³ ***Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.***

⁴⁴ ***And the one who falls on this Stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."***

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking about them.

⁴⁶ And although they were seeking to arrest Him, they feared the crowds, because they held Him to be a prophet.

Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

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"By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?"

²⁴ 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."**

Observation #1

**The Question
on Authority**

²⁵ **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_(John)?"

²⁶ **But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."**

²⁷ 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."**

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31 **Which of the two did the will of his father?"**

They said, **"The first."**

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"Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors & the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you."

32 **For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him.**

And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Observation #2

Jesus got the hearers to **evaluate** John's (the Baptist) Authority using Parable #1
"You knew, You saw yet refused to change"

Matthew 21:23-46 (ESV)

The Parable of the Tenants

33 **"Hear another parable.**

*There was a **master of a house** who planted a
and put a fence **"You knew, You stubborn yet** determined to eliminate"
and dug a winepress in it
and built a tower and leased it to tenants,
and went into another country.*

34 **When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.**

35 **And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.**

36 **Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.**

37 **Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'**

38 **But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves,
'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.'**

39 **And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.**

40 **When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"**

Observation #3

Jesus got the hearers
to **evaluate** Master Son's Authority
using Parable #2

"You knew, You stubborn yet determined to eliminate"

Matthew 21:23-46 (ESV)

The Parable of the Tenants

41 They said to Him,

"He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

Observation #4

Jesus got the hearers to **self-derive the consequence** for their own disbelief

42 Jesus said to them,

"Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The Stone that the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

c.f. Ps 118:22-23

43 **Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.**

44 **And the one who falls on this Stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."**

Observation #5

Jesus got the hearers to **connect** OT fulfilment

"Stone" = Jesus = you reject

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking about them.

46 And although they were seeking to arrest Him, they feared the crowds, because they held Him to be a prophet.

Matt 21:1-46 (ESV)

STORY FLOW

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Jesus'

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*triggers the crowd's proclamation
v1-11*

Jesus'

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*triggers big attention from the ldrs
v12-17*

Part 2

One who misplaces our Faith

*illustrated with a fruitless withered fig tree
v18-22*

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Religious Leaders' Stubbornness

*not placing their faith in Jesus (King)
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Kingly Entry

Jesus' v12-17

Authoritative Entry

One who misplaces
our Faith v18-22

Part 2

Religious Leaders'

Stubbornness

v23-46

What Jesus Did

Jesus' Actions

offended the religious leaders

Jesus' Teachings

require true faith in Him as the King

Jesus' Challenges

directed the hearers

to evaluate their acceptance of Jesus
as the Authoritative King

Warnings to Ponder On

Have I truly put my faith in Jesus
knowing Christ-centred life
is offensive to the world?Have I been stubborn to change
even knowing Jesus' Way is true?

P1: I knew yet refused to change

P2: I knew yet determined to eliminate

P3: I knew yet chose to reject

The Offense

*that led the hearers to seriously **EVALUATE** Jesus as our Authoritative King*

Jesus

R. Leaders

Main Teaching | Everyone | 19 Aug 2025

Matthew 21:1-46 (ESV)

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#1) My heart is so proud
My mind is so unfocused
I see the things You do through me
as great things I have done

And now You gently break me
Then lovingly You take me
And hold me as my Father
And mold me as my Maker

#2) At times, I may grow weak
And feel a bit discouraged
Knowing that someone
somewhere could do a better job

For who am I to serve You?
I know I don't deserve You
And that's the part that burns in my heart
And keeps me hanging on

#3) As I walk with You I'm learning
What Your grace really means
The price that I could never pay
was paid at Calvary

So instead of trying to repay You
I'm learning to simply obey You
By giving up my life to You
For all that You've given to me

You are so patient with me, Lord

I ask You: "How many times will You pick me up when I keep on letting You down?"
And each time I will fall short of Your glory; how far will forgiveness abound?

And You answer: "My child, I love you and as long as you're seeking My face
You'll walk in the Power of My daily sufficient Grace"



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Jesus' Challenges

directed the hearers

to evaluate our acceptance of Jesus
as the Authoritative King

Warnings to Ponder On

Have I truly put my faith in Jesus
knowing Christ-centred life
is offensive to the world?Have I been stubborn to change
even knowing Jesus' Way is true?

P1: I knew yet refused to change

P2: I knew yet determined to eliminate

P3: I knew yet chose to reject