

## Jerusalem's Prophecy February 12, 2020

**Text:** Two Parables:

*The Parable of the Two Sons* – Matthew 21:28-32

*The Parable of the Tenants* – Matthew 21:33-46

### Definitions:

*Parable* – A way to teach using verbal pictures that shows what is happening in real life.

*Prophecy* – A statement that says what is going to happen in the future.

**Key Verse:** *“Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.”...Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.”* **Matthew** 21:31c; 21:43

### Basic Outline for 1-hour study

**Introduction** by lead: This evening we are going to focus on who gets into the kingdom of God. Is it who would be viewed as the scum of society (tax collectors, prostitutes, the morally degenerate)? Or is it those with authority; the religious leaders who make a great show of saying yes to God? Listen to what Jesus says about these two groups and ask yourself the hard question, “which group do I belong to?”

**Teaching:** Knowing Jesus leads to obeying Jesus leads to being in His Kingdom **15-20 mins**

- ❑ **Setting the Scene:** Jesus was hailed by the masses as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey fulfilling what was spoken through the prophet Zechariah (Zech. 9:9). Children show that they have a greater knowledge than the religious leader of who Jesus is when they shout, *“Hosanna to the Son of David”* (Matt. 21:15). The next day, Jesus cursed a fig tree for not having fruit on it. This curse became a model that pronounces judgment on religious hypocrites...people who make a show of piety but bear no genuine fruit of piety. The result of all of this is the demand from the religious leaders to know by what authority Jesus said and did these things. Jesus challenged them with his own question regarding “John’s baptism” (Matt. 21:25). The divide between Jesus and the religious leaders was becoming clearer.
- ❑ **Jesus’ response:** He tells two stories that speak to the eschatological ramifications of the religious leaders.
  - ❑ **The Parable of the Two Sons** teaches that the person who refuses to do what is asked of them (the tax collectors, prostitutes, sinners) but ultimately changes their mind and does the task is better than the one who promises (the religious leaders) to take care of their obligations, but never intends to fulfill them. It is the first group, the repentant and obedient group that enters the Kingdom of God.
  - ❑ **The Parable of the Tenants:** The religious leaders knew Jesus was talking about them in this parable (Matt. 21:45). They realized that servants mentioned in the parable referred to the prophets God sent to Israel and that these prophets were killed because of their message. When Jesus speaks of the landowner’s

son, who was killed by the tenants, he prophetically speaks of his own impending death. The rejection of Jesus' authority as the Son by the religious leaders results in these prophetic words of Jesus, *"Therefore, I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you."* (Matt. 21:43). And now God's kingdom will be for a people who will produce fruit.

**Table Time:** How do we implement this teaching in our everyday lives? [30-35 mins](#)

- As a follower of Jesus, what does it mean to produce fruit? Are you a fruit producer or just a leafy tree that looks good? What is keeping you from producing fruit?
- In the Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-31), which son do you relate to the most? Why?
- What is that thing you need to change?
- Where have you acted like you have said yes, but not on the inside?
- Where are we doing the right things for the wrong motives?

**Wrap up:** The talk is about a series that hasn't started yet. I would wrap up talking about the fast and how it is going for everyone.