

# **The Fruit That God Wants Us To Produce**

Matthew 21:23-46

Key Verse: 21:43

**“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.”**

1. Read verses 23-27. When Jesus was teaching in the temple court, how and why did the chief priests and elders of the people question him? What did they mean by “these things?” How did Jesus answer? Why did he talk about John the Baptist? Why couldn't they answer Jesus' question? What is the source of Jesus' authority?
2. Read verses 28-32. In this parable, what did the father tell each of his sons to do? What did the first one say? What did he do? How did the second one respond? What did he do? Which of the two did what the father wanted? Who do the father and his two sons represent?
3. What is the way of righteousness which John proclaimed and taught? Who believed him and who did not? What was the result? What is the message of this parable? What does God want of mankind? Why did the religious leaders fail, while sinners got into the kingdom of heaven?
4. Read verses 33-34, 45. Jesus told them another parable. About whom was he talking? (45) How did the vineyard owner prepare his vineyard to be fruitful? Who does the owner represent? Who do the tenants represent? What did the owner expect of the tenants at harvest time?
5. Read verses 35-41. How were the servants who came to get some fruit received? In what way do the servants represent the prophets? What did the owner hope when he sent his son? How was the son treated? What would the owner do? In what way is this parable a prophetic warning?
6. Read verses 41-46. In what way is this parable a prophetic warning to the Jewish religious leaders? How does it look forward to a new work of God in the Gentile world? What do the Scriptures teach about the rejected stone and the cornerstone? How does this reinforce the message of the Parable?