



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 21:18-27” on June 3 & 6, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 21:12-17 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 21:18-27

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 21: 18-27 Jesus' last week on this earth provided us with such profound teaching for living our lives as Christ-followers! This passage focuses on the importance of fulfilling our purpose and being accountable for producing fruit in our lives; it also describes the power of prayer that is aligned with God's will.

JESUS' EXAMPLE FOR US: In Matthew we are shown great examples of Jesus' deity and His humanity. In great humility, the Creator was willing to become a man, to experience all that we experience so that He might sympathize with our weaknesses. He walked a journey of changing emotions just in His last week from excitement to weeping to anger to hunger – all the things we live day in and day out. He sees and knows our darkest moments and still loves us!

- How do you respond to the above description of Jesus' choosing to not only live life as a human, but to walk through the last week of His life for the purpose of redeeming us from the bondage of sin? Can you put that into words?
- How does knowing this encourage you in your darkest moments?
- How does knowing this shape the way you live each day as His redeemed child?

THE FIG TREE: Jesus used the lesson of the fig tree to represent judgment against the nation of Israel for its obstinacy, and to teach us about fulfilling our purpose as His followers.

- The Old Testament is filled with references to the fig tree, both as a representation of safety and of God's wrath. Look at these scriptures and discuss why Jesus' use of the fig tree as a symbol would have been so meaningful to the Israelites: Expectations for safety: Deuteronomy 8:8, I Kings 4:25, Micah 4:1-5, and Zechariah 3:10. As a reference to God's wrath: Psalm 105:23-33, Jeremiah 8:12-13, and Hosea 2:1.
- The fig tree's intended purpose was to produce fruit; the temple's purpose was to show the world who God is, drawing all nations to Him; our purpose is to love and serve, producing fruits of reconciliation and restoration. What does all of this mean for the choices you make in your personal walk with Jesus?
- Jesus taught that the fig tree looked good from afar but upon closer inspection failed to fulfill its purpose, just as the temple looked good on the outside but was corrupt on the inside; apply this to your life – does the way you live your life align with what you profess to believe? How well are aligning your purpose with God's purposes for your life?
- What would Jesus say if He walked into our churches in our community today? Consider our own church community and others you have observed or are familiar with. How can we pray for fulfilling our purpose as a church community representing Jesus?

PRAYER and AUTHORITY: Jesus described the power of prayer that is aligned with God's purposes. He also met the religious leaders' challenge to His authority with a question about where John the Baptist's baptism came from.

- How well are your prayers aligned with God's purposes? How could the teaching from this passage help you shape your prayers to be in harmony with Him?
- Study Matthew 3:7-12. Why do you think Jesus used this reference to John the Baptist to challenge the chief priests and elders? What was the lesson for them as leaders of the Nation of Israel, and what can we learn from that?
- Jason told us that Jesus' expectations for us did not include perfection, but DID include aligning our purposes with Him, repenting, and producing fruit with all we have. How well are we meeting Jesus' expectations as a church community and are you meeting His expectations as an individual believer? How will you pray for His strength to equip you?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

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RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God’s Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

PRAY for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.