

## **The Authority You Need Matthew 21:18-46**

Why is authority critical to your flourishing?

- I. The sinful desire for autonomy
  - A. A hidden desire (v. 18-32)
  - B. Evidence of the hidden desire
- II. The prison of autonomy
  - A. The goodness and love of God (v. 33-36; Isa. 5:1-4)
  - B. Rejecting the goodness of God (v. 40-41, 43; Isa. 5:5-6)
- III. The flourishing life under authority
  - A. Compassion towards sinners (v. 37-39)
  - B. The healing of repentance (v. 42, 44; Ps. 118:22-23)

### **Application Guide:**

1. What's the evidence of your hidden desire for autonomy and independence? To which example of this hidden desire do you most relate: the fig tree, the questioning of Jesus' authority, or the parable of the two sons?
2. How have you experienced the death and misery of autonomy and independence? How does the goodness and love of God highlight this misery?
3. What situation in your life has you fighting against God for autonomy? Do you trust the goodness of God that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus into every part of your life? Do you believe his goodness far exceeds any goodness that you can manufacture on your own?