

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Matthew 21-23: Clash of Kingdoms - Confronting Power, Pride, and Empty Worship

Sermon: Matthew 21:12-22

Date: Sunday, June 7, 2026

1. *Read Matthew 21:12-14.* The religious leaders turned the Court of the Gentiles into a marketplace, effectively barring outsiders from worship. Why do you think Jesus reacted so strongly? What does this reveal about God's heart for outsiders, seekers, and those far from Him?
2. Are there ways our own "traditions or preferences" might unknowingly create barriers for people trying to find Jesus? How do we eliminate those for the cause of the gospel?
3. *Read Matthew 21:15-17.* What do you think prevented the religious leaders from responding like the children? What blindspots may exist in our lives that prevent us from seeing and celebrating what God doing in our midst?

4. What are some warning signs that our hearts are becoming more critical than worshipful?

5. Read *Matthew 21:18-22*. What was Jesus purpose in using the fig tree as a visual parable? What similarities existed between the fig tree and the temple system?

- What is the difference between appearing spiritually healthy and actually bearing spiritual fruit?

6. Is there anyone in your life whom you've written off as unlikely to come to faith? What does this passage teach us about God's heart toward them? How could God use you to plant gospel seeds in their life?

