

How (and What) the

# Parables of Jesus

Parables About the Crisis of Decision (2) Help Us See

Lesson 12

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.” (Matt 21:43)

There may be no single section of Scripture that more concisely summarizes Jesus’ **season of confrontation** than [Matthew 21](#) and [22](#). Just days before his crucifixion, Israel’s long-awaited Messiah tells three powerfully-pointed parables that bring his most hard-hearted hearers face-to-face with the crisis of decision. Let’s take a moment to appreciate the context:

- On **Sunday**, Jesus makes his triumphal entry into Jerusalem ([21:1-11](#))
- On **Monday**, he cleanses the temple ([21:12-17](#))
- On **Tuesday**, the chief priests and elders challenge his authority ([21:23-27](#))

In response, Jesus tells the following three parables. Take the time to carefully read them with this setting in mind. **What do they help us see?** How does the arrival and upside-down nature of heaven’s kingdom impact *everything*?

- The parable of the two sons ([Matt 21:28-32](#)) -
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- The parable of the wicked tenants ([Matt 21:33-46](#)) -
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- The parable of the wedding feast ([Matt 22:1-14](#)) -



### **For Next Week...**

We'll conclude our study of how and what the parables of Jesus help us see. Want to work ahead? Take the time to thoughtfully read the three parables in [Matthew 25](#). In what ways are they the ultimate kingdom-confrontation? How are Jesus' hearers (then and now) being led one more time into the crisis of decision? And how will we *all* make a decision in response, one way or another?