

39--Criticisms, Challenges, and Questions

Matthew 21:23-22:46; Mark 11:27-12:37; Luke 20:1-44

1. Read Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8. What question do the “chief priests, scribes, and elders of the people” ask Jesus? What question does Jesus ask in response to their question? Why does this group find it so difficult to respond to this question from Jesus?

2. The increasing volatility of the confrontations Jesus faced elicited some parables from Him. How does the “Parable of the Two Sons” apply to the current situation of Jesus (Matthew 21:28-32)?

3. In a second parable, *The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers*, Jesus offers a concise history and future of how the leaders of the Jews treated and would treat God’s messengers. Read the texts in Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19. What does Jesus recall and foreshadow within this parable (cp. 2 Chronicles 36:14-16; Philippians 2:5-8)?

“But When The Tenants
Saw The Son, They Said To
Each Other, ‘This Is The
Heir. Come, Let’s Kill Him
And Take His Inheritance.’

Matthew 21-38

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4. Despite the future rejection of Jesus, what does Jesus also predict by quoting Psalm 118:22-23? What does Jesus specifically say that enrages the “chief priests and Pharisees” (see Matthew 21:43-44)?

5. Matthew 22:1-14 contains a third parable in response to the Jewish critics of Jesus. How does this parable specifically apply to the situation of Jesus in the 1st century?

6. The attacks from the critics of Jesus began to increase in the final days of Jesus. What two groups united to ask Jesus a volatile political question (Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:19-26)? What does Jesus sense they are trying to do with their question?

7. After the Pharisees and Herodians take a shot at Jesus, what issue do the Sadducees try to address with Jesus by their hypothetical question (Matthew 22:23-28; Mark 12:18-23; Luke 20:27-33)? What does Jesus say about their question (Matthew 22:29-33; Mark 12:24-27; Luke 20:34-38)?

8. What question is Jesus asked by a “lawyer” in the text found in Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 20:40? What is Jesus able to say about this man after hearing his response?

9. The term “Son of David” was a term used by the prophets with reference to the Messiah (Isaiah 9:2-7; Jeremiah 23:5ff; 33:14-18; Ezekiel 34:23ff; 37:24; Psalm 89:20). Was this a rightful title of Jesus (see Romans 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:8; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-28)?

10. However, how does Jesus indicate He holds a far greater position than just the “Son” of David (see Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20: 41-44)?