Matthew 21-22 Discussion Questions

The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem: All 4 Gospels tell us that when Jesus came to Jerusalem for the last time he was met by large, enthusiastic crowds.

1.	The Triumphal Entry. (Mat 21:1-15) What do the following verses reveal about Jesus' Identity? A. Jesus Entering Jerusalem: Zechariah 9:9-10
	B. The Cries of the People "Hosanna in the Highest": Psalm 118:25-26 quoted in Mat 21:9?
	C. The Cleansing of the Temple: Mat 21:12-13; Exod 30:11-16. Mat 17:24-27; Mark 11:15-17.
2.	The Cursing of the Fig Tree . Read Mat 21:18-22, Why does Jesus curse the fig tree? What does the fig tree represent? How was the curse of Jesus intended to be both a <i>warning</i> and a <i>prophecy</i> concerning this nation with its profession of faith but no fruit of repentance?
3.	Jesus' Authority Challenged: Read Mat 21:23-27 A. Why is the question of authority a significant question?
	B. What does Jesus accomplish with this answer to the chief priests and elders?
	C. Who or what is your authority in this world?

4.	In answer to the leaders' false motives and ignorance, Jesus tells three parables, each of which is a retelling of the story of Israel up to the current generation. In each of the following parables, Jesus is focusing on MOTIVE! What is Jesus central message to these leaders in:
	a. The Story of the two sons (Mat 21:28-32)
	b. The Story of the Tenants (Mat 21:33-46)
	c. The Story of the Wedding feast (Mat 22:1-14)
5.	We are told in 22:15 that the leaders "plotted how to entangle him in his words." They do this by asking three questions. What is Jesus' primary point in his response to each of these questions?
	A. Paying Taxes to Caesar: In answering this question consider two things: the "image" that was on the coin and the image in whom are all human beings made (see Gen 1:26-27).
	B. The Resurrection. Consider Jesus' answer in light of the fact that the Sadducees did not believe in resurrection.
	C. Whose Son is the Christ? Read 2 Sam 7:12-16; Psalm 89:3-4; Isaiah 11:1-5; Jerimiah 23:5-6
6.	(Personal Question) The Jewish Leaders knew their bibles and the Law, yet they missed Jesus who is the Christ. In what ways could those of us in Bible study actually be more like the Jewish leaders than like those whose eyes were opened by Jesus? How has Jesus revealed Himself to you through the study of Matthew this year?