THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

Matthew 21:18–32

Key Verse: 21:32

1. Early in the morning, on his way back to the city, what did Jesus see, and what was he hoping for? (18,19a) Whom does a fig tree with leaves but no fruit represent? What did Jesus say, what happened, and what can we learn from this? (19b; 7:16–20)
2. How did the disciples respond, and why? (20) What did Jesus teach them, and us? (21,22; 17:20; 7:7; 1Jn5:14,15)
3. While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, what happened, and why? (23) What counter-question did Jesus ask, and why? (24,25a) How did they respond, and why? (25b–27a) What did Jesus say, and why? (27b)
4. Read Jesus’ parable of the two sons (28­–31a). Who do these two sons represent? Read verse 31b. How did Jesus apply his parable? What can we learn here about God and his way of working?
5. Read verse 32. What was the problem of the chief priests and the elders? What is God trying to show us, and what does he really want from us?