

**Lesson 28: The Day of Controversy**

Objective: To learn that there is a limit to the kindness and patience of God.

Background: Tuesday, Jesus spent the whole day teaching the crowds in the temple. His Parables made the religious leaders very angry, so they sent the experts from each Jewish party to Jesus with "hard" questions hoping either to make fun of Jesus teachings or to find mistakes in Jesus' answers so that they might accuse Him. But Jesus "beat" them all!!!

Instructions: Read carefully Matthew 21:23-46 as if you were with Jesus in the temple.

Let's Think:

The Occasion

Tuesday morning in the temple the leaders came and interrupted Jesus' teaching. They wanted to know who gave Jesus authority to do the things which he had been doing. Instead of answering their question, Jesus told two stories to show them how bad they were.

The Story of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32)

1. At the end of the story, which son obeyed the father and did his will? How? Now who obeyed John's message when he was sent by God to prepare the hearts of people for Jesus? Were they the religious leaders? Read carefully Matthew 21:24-26, 31,32.

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2. Is "saying" and "doing" the same thing? Do you know that we must not follow the example of either son? And do you know why? Explain.

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The Story of the Wicked Tenants (Matthew 21:33-46)

This is a very unusual story because Jesus used the story to describe the long history of the Jewish nation. In the

- story:
- \*the owner of the vineyard stands for God
  - \*the cultivated vineyard stands for the Jewish nation, God's chosen people
  - \*the tenants of the vineyard stand for the Jewish leaders
  - \*the servants stand for the prophets and messengers sent by God
  - \*the Son stands for Jesus, the Son of God

3. How did the tenants treat the servants send by the owner? Explain Read Matthew 23:29-33 to see how the Jews and their leaders treated the prophets.

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4. Did the tenants repent of their sins and receive the owner's son as the owner had expected? Did Jesus know how He would be treated by the Jewish leaders at the end?

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5, Was the owner patient with the tenants? Give evidence. Was his patience and kindness unlimited? Matthew 23:40-43) What does it teach you about God (the owner)?

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The Reaction of the Leaders

6. Did the leaders like the stories? If not, why? How did they feel about Jesus? And why didn't they arrest Jesus?

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What happens when a person keeps rejecting God's love and disobeying His Word? Think!

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Let's Remember: "...Do you not know that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4b)

