



### Sermon Discussion Questions: Matthew 20-22

#### **Matthew 20:1-19**

1. Share a story about your first job. What was it like? How was your boss?
2. Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a master hiring laborers in a vineyard. What is the main point of the parable?
3. How does this parable land on you? Why?
4. What is Jesus trying to teach you? How might you put it into practice?
5. After Jesus tells the parable, He tells His disciples once again that He will be crucified and raised. Why do you think He continues to tell them what will take place? What might this reveal about His heart towards the disciples and towards us?
6. Spend some time praying for one another, especially related to your heart towards the kingdom.

#### **Matthew 20:20-28**

1. Share a time you asked Jesus for something, but now realize your motives (and maybe the actual request) weren't the best at the time.
2. The mother of James & John asks Jesus a question. What was it? How does the request reveal her heart? Can you identify with this mom?
3. What one request would you ask Jesus right now?
4. Jesus contrasts Gentile rulers and their kingdom (v. 25) with Jesus and His kingdom (v. 26-28). Explain the differences.
5. In what way(s) might your attitude and behavior change to be more in line with Jesus and His kingdom? Spend some time praying for one another.

### **Matthew 20:29-21:11**

1. Share a time when you cried out to God for mercy, and He responded.
2. Put yourself in the shoes of the blind men. Imagine their struggles. Then imagine how they must have felt when Jesus approached them and healed them.
3. What difficulty do you face right now? How might this story encourage you?
4. Jesus enters Jerusalem. Imagine what this must have been like for Him.
5. The crowds honor Jesus in word and deed. How might you honor Him right now?
6. Spend some time praying for one another, especially regarding difficulties you currently face and how you want to honor Jesus in your life.

### **Matthew 21:12-22**

1. Share a time you were angry for a righteous cause. What was the situation? How was it resolved? If you could go back, would you change anything?
2. Jesus is angry. Why?
3. To what extent do you resonate with Jesus' desires for God's house and God's people? How might your thoughts, affections, and actions change to be more in line with His?
4. Why do you think Jesus cursed the fig tree? What does this action reveal about His character?
5. Jesus tells the disciples, "Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive if you have faith." What does this mean? What does this not mean? How might you apply this promise to your life?
6. Spend some time as a group praying for one another, trusting in God's promise to hear and answer prayer.

### **Matthew 21:23-46**

1. Share a time when you experienced authority being used in an unhealthy way. How did that impact you?
2. The chief priests & elders and Jesus both exercise authority. Compare and contrast their use of it. Which are you more drawn to and why?
3. Jesus tells two parables. What is the main point of each parable?
4. Where do you see yourself in these parables? How might you respond to Jesus' teaching today?
5. Take some time to pray for those whose hearts are hard towards Jesus. Also, spend some time praying for one another—that your hearts would not be hardened but softened towards Jesus more and more.

### **Matthew 22:1-14**

1. Share about a wedding (could be yours!) and why it was special to you.
2. Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast. Talk about the parable and what sticks out to you.
3. What does this parable reveal about God's character and kingdom? What does it reveal about peoples' responses to God's character and kingdom?
4. How do you personally relate to this parable? How is Jesus inviting you to respond to Him today?
5. There are many who are currently not "worthy" to enter the wedding feast. Who is on your heart to pray for? How might you join with God in inviting them to the wedding?
6. Spend some time as a group praying for one another and for those who you long to respond to God's invitation to come to the wedding feast.

### **Matthew 22:15-22**

1. Share a funny (not a serious one!!) story about taxes.
2. Jesus is asked about His view on taxes, but there was more to this question. What were the Pharisees seeking to do?
3. Summarize Jesus' answer. What other passage(s) might further articulate what our posture should be towards the government?
4. In what way(s) might your attitude and behavior change to be more in line with Jesus' instructions to relate to our earthly rulers and our heavenly king?
5. Jesus' answer not only provided direction for how we should think about taxes but also silenced the Pharisees. Reflect on Jesus' wisdom displayed in this situation. How might you follow His example when others seek to "trap" or "trick" you?
6. Spend some time praying for our rulers, our country, and our world. Also, pray for wisdom in how best to live as citizens of both a temporary, earthly kingdom and an eternal, heavenly one.

### **Matthew 22:23-33**

1. Share a crazy, preposterous story with your group. The crazier the better!
2. The Sadducees share a crazy story about marriage and the resurrection to trap Jesus. What was it and what were they trying to do?
3. Jesus' answer helps us better understand what our future will be like. What do you learn about marriage and heaven from this passage? What excites you? What confuses or challenges you?
4. Jesus says, "You know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God." How would you assess your knowing of these things? How might you grow?
5. Once again, Jesus not only answers his enemies' questions but also silences them and astonishes all who listened. To what extent are you in awe of Him today? How might you grow in seeking His wisdom?

**Matthew 22:34-40**

1. Do you tend to be more of a rule-follower or rule-breaker? Can you share a story to prove your point?
2. Jesus is asked what the most important commandment is. What does He say? Why do you think He lists not just one, but two commandments in His response?
3. Jesus refers to the Old Testament for His answer. Why do you think that is significant?
4. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 as a group and share what sticks out to you about this passage and why. (If you have time, now read Leviticus 19:9-18 as a group and share what sticks out to you about this passage and why.) How might you seek to apply these passages to your life?
5. Jesus says that all of God's Word depends on these two commands. What does He mean?
6. Reflect on how you see Jesus perfectly obey these two commandments. How might that encourage you today?

**Matthew 22:41-46**

1. Share a time you were asked a question and were completely stumped. What happened? How did you feel?
2. Jesus flips the script and now asks a question of the Pharisees. What was the question? How did He stump the Pharisees?
3. What do we learn from Jesus' comments about the Christ? How might these characteristics encourage you? lead you to worship Jesus?
4. What question do you currently feel stumped by? How might you bring that question to Jesus? How might you trust in Him even if He doesn't give you an answer right now?
5. Spend some time both praising Jesus and praying for one another.