

# IF I REJECT JESUS?

Jesus is central in God's plan of redemption.



TRANSFORMATION  
for Adult LifeGroups

MATTHEW 21:33-45

JANUARY 31, 2018/FEBRUARY 4, 2018

## TODAY'S TEXT AND MAIN IDEA

**Text:** MATTHEW 21:42 (NIV), Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

**Main Idea:** Jesus is central in God's plan of redemption.

## FIRST THOUGHTS

- ° Imagine you owned a business. What qualities would you look for when hiring employees?

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Jesus returned to Jerusalem early in the morning on the day after riding into the city on a donkey. Coming from Bethany, where He spent the night, He approached a fig tree looking for fruit. He cursed the tree because it bore none, and the fig tree quickly withered. When the disciples asked Jesus about what He had done, He taught them about praying consistently and trusting Him completely.

With the withered fig tree as the backdrop, Jesus continued to drive home the point about bearing fruit in the kingdom of God. When He went to the temple, the religious leaders questioned His authority. They wanted to know who authorized Him to carry out His ministry. Jesus responded with a question about the source of John the Baptist's authority. They were unable to answer His question without getting themselves in trouble with the crowd. Their response prompted Him to confront them about their unwillingness to acknowledge Him as the Messiah. Jesus used two parables. The first parable involved a man who told his two sons to work in the vineyard. Only one son actually went to work. This son symbolized the people who followed Jesus. The response of the other son served to warn the religious leaders about their fate because they had rejected the message of John the Baptist regarding Jesus. The second parable was about the landowner who leased his vineyard to tenant farmers.

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### THE SON SENT

> Read Matthew 21:33-37

- ° What's the value of teaching with a parable?
- ° What was the main point of the parable?

### THE SON REJECTED

> Read Matthew 21:38-39

- ° What may have been the motives behind the farmer tenants killing the landowner's son?
- ° Obviously Jesus was speaking of His own impending death in these verses. How would you have reacted to this parable if you were one of the disciples who heard Jesus' words?

### THE SON VINDICATED

> Read Matthew 21:40-45

- ° What does the answer given to Jesus' question in verse 40 reveal about those who responded?
- ° Jesus often used Scripture to relay truth as He taught. What did His response in verse 42 mean?
- ° What does the reaction of the religious leaders indicate about their spiritual journey?

## SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

---

° How would you summarize this parable today?

° With whom do you identify in this story? In your life, is Jesus the cornerstone? Why or why not? Explain.

**Personal Challenge:** Take time this week to evaluate how your life portrays Jesus to those around you. Are you openly sharing your faith with others? Do you have a deep burden for those who are lost and don't know Jesus as their Savior? Do you have an ongoing prayer strategy for friends, family, and others who are lost? What needs to change in order for you to be more proactive in reaching others?

## UPCOMING LESSONS

---

- Read Matthew 22:1-14
- How many times did you hear the Gospel before you responded to it in faith?
- What does it mean, "many are called, but few are chosen?"

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

---

**4th** - Exodus 37-38; Psalm 19; Acts 11 | **5th** - Exodus 39-40; Psalm 15; Acts 12 | **6th** - Leviticus 1-3; Acts 13 | **7th** - Leviticus 4-6; Acts 14 | **8th** - Leviticus 7-9; Acts 15 | **9th** - Leviticus 10-12; Acts 16 | **10th** - Leviticus 13-14; Acts 17