

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 March 2017..... Matthew 14-16 Who is this Jesus?
- 2) 12 March..... Matthew 17-18 Is Jesus Fully God?
- 3) 19 March..... Matthew 19-20 What is Required?
- 4) 26 March..... Matthew 21:1-17 More Than a Prophet?
- 5) **02 April..... Matthew 21:18-46 .. What Happens If I Reject Jesus?**
- 6) 09 April..... Matthew 22-23 Offered to All?
- 7) 16 April..... Matthew 28a Where is Jesus?
- 8) 23 April..... Matthew 24-25 What About the Future?
- 9) 30 April..... Matthew 26a How Do We Remember?
- 10) 07 May..... Matthew 26b Do I Have the Strength?
- 11) 14 May..... Matthew 26c Loyal to Whom?
- 12) 21 May..... Matthew 27 Crucified for What?
- 13) 28 May..... Matthew 28b What Do We Do Now?
- 14)

INTRODUCTION

- We see Jesus cursing a fig tree for not producing figs and turns it into a powerful lesson on faith. We also see Jesus' authority being challenged and He responds with some dire warnings of God's approaching judgment.

Passage	Comments
Matthew 21:18-22	<p>The Barren Fig Tree – Powerful Lesson on Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v22. Did Jesus truly mean "ALL" things we ask in prayer, believing, we will receive? If so.... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why do we not see resurrections of loved ones? ♦ Why do we not see Down Syndrome kids healed? ♦ Why do we not see amputees' limbs grow back? ♦ Why do we not see mountains moved? ♦ Have we got contradictions in Scripture? ♦ OR, are their conditions to this great promise? ♦ AND, should we have an earthly or heavenly focus?
Key Aspects for Getting 100% of our Prayers Answered	<p>God is a Big God, and He Wants Bold, Big Prayers to Accomplish Great Things for His Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have not, because we ask not..... James 4:2 • Fervent/persistent prayers of a righteous person accomplish MUCH James 5:16 • Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do Jn 14:13 • If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it . Jn 14:14 • If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you ... Jn 15:7 • Whatever you ask of the Father in My name He will give to you so you can bear much fruit Jn 15:16 • If you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you Jn 16:23 • Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full Jn 16:24
Are there conditions to Our Prayers?	<p>Consider this. Did Jesus always give to everyone who asked Him of something? No, He did not. Jesus discriminated if one was wicked, unrepentant, selfish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Pharisees asked for "a sign" to prove His deity, and Jesus said NOPE, revisit Jonah for proof ... Mat 12:38 ♦ Some of the 4,000 who got a free meal found Jesus the next day seeking more food from Him, & Jesus said, NOPE, but seek eternal bread Jn 6:26-27 • Even Jesus did not get all of His prayers answered: "Father, remove this cup from me" Lk 22:42 <p>Here are the CONDITIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our true motives must be righteous James 4:3 2. Our asking must be in God's will 1John 5:14 3. God's glory & His will have priority Lk 11:12 4. We humble ourselves as God's servants Lk 17:10 5. We must be righteous (repent from sins) Ps 34:17

Passage	Comments
Final Condition	<p>Finally, We Must Have a Heavenly Focus</p> <p>John 16:25 "These things I have spoken to you figuratively (NASB), in proverbs (KJ), parables (Amp), figures of speech (HSCB), in similitudes (YLT)"</p> <p>This passage clarifies that all these previous precious promises should be viewed with a heavenly kingdom focus and not with an earthly focus (wants in it for me)</p>
21:23-27	<p>Jesus' Authority is Challenged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chief priests & elders asked a legitimate question • Why didn't Jesus say, "God gave me this authority"? • Consider this. God reveals His truth to those who have "ears to hear and eyes to see." IOW, we must draw near to God for him to draw near to us. James 4:8
21:28-32	<p>Parable of the Two Sons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v31. Which of the two sons did the will of God? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Answer: The one who obeyed in the end ♦ Moral of the Story: Some of us may have baggage, and bad attitudes, but what matters is that we eventually grow up, repent, get saved, and produce fruit
21:33-46	<p>Parable of the Landowner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v43. God is not afraid to replace His people, Israel, with a bunch of Gentiles, or even remove a church's candlestick if His faithful ones become unfaithful • God even allowed His temples to be demolished and the Ark of the Covenant to disappear • God wants fruit to His Glory, and He can even raise up rocks to praise Him Matthew 3:9 • Remember – Everyone is replaceable

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS. God is looking for BOLD prayer warriors who are not afraid to pray BIG things for His kingdom. So, pray BIG or stay home!

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 22-23. Jesus puts the Pharisees and Sadducees in their place a few more times.

