

**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><b>The Barren Fig Tree – Powerful Lesson on Faith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v22. Did Jesus truly mean "ALL" things we ask in prayer, believing, we will receive? If so....                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Why do we not see resurrections of loved ones?</li> <li>◆ Why do we not see Down Syndrome kids healed?</li> <li>◆ Why do we not see amputees' limbs grow back?</li> <li>◆ Why do we not see mountains moved?</li> <li>◆ Have we got contradictions in Scripture?</li> <li>◆ OR, are their conditions to this great promise?</li> <li>◆ AND, should we have an earthly or heavenly focus?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Key Aspects for Getting 100% of our Prayers Answered	<p><b>God is a Big God, and He Wants Bold, Big Prayers to Accomplish Great Things for His Kingdom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have not, because we ask not..... <a href="#">James 4:2</a></li> <li>• Fervent/persistent prayers of a righteous person accomplish MUCH ..... <a href="#">James 5:16</a></li> <li>• Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do .... <a href="#">Jn 14:13</a></li> <li>• If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it . <a href="#">Jn 14:14</a></li> <li>• If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you ... <a href="#">Jn 15:7</a></li> <li>• Whatever you ask of the Father in My name He will give to you so you can bear much fruit ..... <a href="#">Jn 15:16</a></li> <li>• If you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you ..... <a href="#">Jn 16:23</a></li> <li>• Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full ..... <a href="#">Jn 16:24</a></li> </ul>
Are there conditions to Our Prayers?	<p><b>Consider this.</b> 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"> <li>◆ Pharisees asked for "a sign" to prove His deity, and Jesus said NOPE, revisit Jonah for proof ... <a href="#">Mat 12:38</a></li> <li>◆ Some of the 4,000 who got a free meal found Jesus the next day seeking more food from Him, &amp; Jesus said, NOPE, but seek eternal bread ..... <a href="#">Jn 6:26-27</a></li> <li>• Even Jesus did not get all of His prayers answered: "Father, remove this cup from me" ..... <a href="#">Lk 22:42</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Here are the CONDITIONS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our true motives must be righteous ..... <a href="#">James 4:3</a></li> <li>2. Our asking must be in God's will ..... <a href="#">1John 5:14</a></li> <li>3. God's glory &amp; His will have priority ..... <a href="#">Lk 11:12</a></li> <li>4. We humble ourselves as God's servants ..... <a href="#">Lk 17:10</a></li> <li>5. We must be righteous (repent from sins) ..... <a href="#">Ps 34:17</a></li> </ol>

Passage	Comments
Final Condition	<p><b>Finally, We Must Have a Heavenly Focus</b></p> <p><b>John 16:25</b> "These things I have spoken to you figuratively (NASB), in proverbs (KJ), parables (Amp), figures of speech (HSCB), in similitudes (YLT)"</p> <p><b>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)</b></p>
21:23-27	<p><b>Jesus' Authority is Challenged</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chief priests &amp; elders asked a legitimate question</li> <li>• Why didn't Jesus say, "God gave me this authority"?</li> <li>• <b>Consider this.</b> 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. <a href="#">James 4:8</a></li> </ul>
21:28-32	<p><b>Parable of the Two Sons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v31. Which of the two sons did the will of God?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Answer:</b> The one who obeyed in the end</li> <li>◆ <b>Moral of the Story:</b> Some of us may have baggage, and bad attitudes, but what matters is that we eventually grow up, repent, get saved, and produce fruit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
21:33-46	<p><b>Parable of the Landowner</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• God even allowed His temples to be demolished and the Ark of the Covenant to disappear</li> <li>• God wants fruit to His Glory, and He can even raise up rocks to praise Him ..... <a href="#">Matthew 3:9</a></li> <li>• <b>Remember – Everyone is replaceable</b></li> </ul>

**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.

