

Transition:

Matthew 21 finds Jesus arriving near Jerusalem after leaving Jericho in the previous chapter. His triumphal entry is accomplished riding a donkey and to praise, fulfilling a prophecy about the Messiah. Jesus cleanses the temple by removing the market, heals the blind and the lame, and presents lessons about faith and Israel's failed leadership. This leads into further conversations which Matthew compiles from Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can a Christian have the appearance of health and yet be fruitless?
2. What does it mean to bear fruit? (John 15:2-5)
3. What does Jesus mean by “the kingdom of God will be taken away...”?

Fundamental:

Bear Fruit - The greatest need of this country is disciples of Jesus. Churches are either shrinking, dying, or filled with uncommitted, undisciplined, and potentially false converts. These symptoms come from the same root issue: disobedience to Christ's command to make disciples. Disciples can't be mass-produced in a classroom or manufactured through seminary. Jesus' method of sacrificing and investing His time is still the only way in which disciples are handcrafted. Christendom has, throughout the centuries, trusted that Jesus was divine, His words were divine and yet has quickly forgotten that His method was also divine. May we rekindle the old flames of sacrifice and devotion and walk the old paths upon which our Master has trodden.

1. Is fruit a necessity for salvation or is it a natural result of salvation? Does this mean that one is saved by works? (Eph 2:8-12, Jam 2:14-26)
2. Why does 1% of the Church make disciples? What is exponential power of trans-generational discipleship?
3. Have we behaved like the individuals in the Parable of the Tenants?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Read *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert E. Coleman as a small group.
2. Please read Matthew 22 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

The most important and practical way to evangelize and disciple: abide in Jesus.

Prayer:

Ask the Lord how you can bear more fruit, and if necessary, ask Him to prune you so that you can. (John 15:2-5)

Extras:

Born to Reproduce by Dawson Trotman

<https://youtu.be/guJHQXK4Pk?si=33uaZA10q03tkSe0>