

The King's Road: The Revelation of the King

Re: GROUP

The King's Road: The Testing of the King

Matthew 21:23–46

Small Group Discussion

1. Getting Started

Have you ever known someone who said all the right things but failed to follow through? What made the difference between their words and their actions?

2. Questioning the King — Matthew 21:23–27

The religious leaders asked Jesus, “By what authority are you doing these things?”

- Why do you think the leaders were questioning Jesus?
- How did their concern about the crowd influence their response to Jesus’ question about John the Baptist?
- What can we learn from the difference between genuinely seeking truth and trying to protect our own interests?

3. Two Sons, Two Responses — Matthew 21:28–32

One son initially refused his father but later obeyed. The other promised to obey but never followed through.

- Which son did the father’s will, and why?
- Why were tax collectors and prostitutes responding to John’s message while the religious leaders remained unwilling to believe?
- What does this parable teach us about the relationship between repentance and obedience?

4. The Tenants and the Son — Matthew 21:33–41

The vineyard owner repeatedly sent servants to collect his fruit, but the tenants mistreated them and eventually killed his son.

- Who do the owner, vineyard, tenants, servants, and son represent in Jesus’ parable?
- What does the tenants’ treatment of the servants reveal about their hearts?
- Why is rejecting the son the climax of the parable?
- What does this teach us about the seriousness of rejecting God’s authority?

5. The Rejected Cornerstone — Matthew 21:42–46

Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22–23 about the stone the builders rejected becoming the cornerstone.

- Why would Jesus describe Himself as the rejected cornerstone?
- What does this passage teach us about the consequences of rejecting Jesus?

- How can someone become so invested in their own position or understanding that they resist what God is doing?

Application Questions

Take time to move from understanding the passage to examining your own life.

1. Words versus obedience: Is there an area of your life where you know what God wants but have been slow or unwilling to obey?
2. Repentance: When Scripture exposes sin or challenges your thinking, do you respond with humility and repentance, or do you tend to defend yourself?
3. Authority: Are there areas where you are trying to maintain control rather than submit to Christ's authority?
4. Receiving correction: How do you respond when a fellow believer, spiritual leader, or passage of Scripture challenges you? What might that response reveal about your heart?
5. Bearing fruit: What specific evidence of repentance, faith, and obedience should be growing in your life?
6. One next step: What is one concrete act of obedience you need to take this week in response to God's Word?

Prayer Time

Use these four prayer focuses to close your group.

1. A Heart That Repents: Ask God to reveal areas of stubbornness, pride, or disobedience and give you a willingness to turn from sin.
2. A Willingness to Obey: Pray that your actions would match your profession of faith and that you would follow through on what God has called you to do.
3. Humility Before Christ: Ask God to help you submit to Jesus as the cornerstone of your life, even when His Word challenges your preferences or plans.
4. A Life That Bears Fruit: Pray that your group would produce the fruit God desires through growing faith, genuine repentance, loving service, and faithful obedience.

Closing thought: The question is not simply whether we know what God says or claim to belong to Him. The question is whether we are willing to receive His Son, submit to His authority, and live in obedient faith.