

# “Closer Walk” Bible Study

## Mining Matthew Chapter 21:23-46

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

Getting us started

1. In high school, with what authority figure did you run into trouble? Why?
2. As a child, what kind of worker were you? How often did your parents have to yell to get you to work?
3. If you could travel anywhere in the world (money being no problem), where would you go?
4. If you were an absentee landlord and had to find trustworthy tenants, what would you seek?

Getting us into Scripture

5. How could Jesus have answered the priests' question? Why didn't he?
6. How did Jesus' counter-question force the issue?
7. How was Jesus' authority linked to John's?
8. What links the parable of the two sons to verses 23-27?
9. In the parable of the two sons, what is the father's request? What does each son say and do? Why?
10. What group is like which son? How?
11. How do you suppose the religious leaders felt about this story?
12. In the parable of the tenants, who is represented as the landowner? The vineyard? Tenants? Servants? Son?
13. What correspond to the son's death? To the removal of the wretched tenants?
14. What is ironic about verses 42-44?
15. At whom does Jesus direct the parable? Why don't they arrest him? Why don't they repent and follow Jesus?
16. Who will be given the kingdom of God (v.43)?

Getting Scripture into us

17. When you come right down to it, whose opinion do you care about more—God's or people's? How does that show?
18. In the parable of the two sons, which son's story is most like your own? Why?
19. At different times in your life, how have you received Jesus?
20. Have you ever felt as though you deserved God's kingdom?
21. In your life, is Jesus like a *capstone* (the highest point in your building)? Or is he like a *millstone* (a weight that drags you down)? In what ways?
22. In the parable of the tenants, with whom do you identify? Why?