

# Sermon Discussion Guide




## “Authority”

Matthew 21:23-46

Adam Jones, April 25 & 26, 2015

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Matthew 21:23-46. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever said, “Nobody tells me what to do!” Are you rebellious? Do you have a problem with authority?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

#### REBELLION AGAINST AUTHORITY

- 3 In what arenas of life do you tend to believe that you are smarter than God? Which of his commands are you prone to view as optional? How have you questioned Jesus’ authority in the past, or how are you questioning it today?

- 4 How did Jesus wrestle with God's authority, and what does that teach us?

#### REBELLION OF THE HEART

- 5 What made the difference between the two sons in Jesus' parable (v. 28-30)? Read Ezekiel 33:31-32. Has this ever described you?
- 6 What did Jesus mean when he said to the religious leaders, "The tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you"?
- 7 Do you have a hard time viewing yourself as someone at the bottom, rather than as someone at the top? When was the last time grace made you mad, and why?

#### REBELLION BRINGS HOPE

- 8 How does Jesus want us to see ourselves in the Parable of the Tenants (v.33-46)?
- 9 Explain the following statement: "Our rebellion is the very bridge that Jesus walks over to redeem us."

### **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?