

Discussion Questions for Matthew 21:18-32

The withering of the fig tree symbolises the temple, the 'house of prayer for the nations', coming to an end. But Jesus reassures his disciples the temple finds its fulfilment in him. Prayer and *powerful* prayer is now offered up through Jesus. Do we appreciate this? Is this reflected in our own prayer lives?

What lay behind the religious leaders' rejection of Jesus' divine authority?

Why does Jesus give the parable? What is its overriding message? Which group of people is he connecting with the first and second son?

In the past we may have responded to Jesus in repentance and faith (like the first son), but how might we be in danger of beginning to resemble the second son (the religious leaders)?

If someone asked you to prove, not by your words or beliefs, but by your actions, your love, your behaviour – that you follow King Jesus – would you have anything to point to?