

Who is in Charge? Matthew 21:23-46

Jesus' authority is challenged

I. **Introduction:** Illustration: *Authority at the church barbecue*

Review of the context: *Jesus rides into Jerusalem as Messianic king;
Jesus drives the buyers and sellers out of the temple courts*

II. **Jesus's authority is challenged by the Jewish leadership (21:23-27)**

Fear of man and concern for popularity is the mark of false leadership

III. **The parable of the two sons (21:28-32)**

Not all Israel is Israel – John the Baptist's ministry divides Israel's two sons

John's "way of righteousness" is both a demand and promise

The true Gospel is: "*Repent and believe*" – true faith works

IV. **The parable of the tenants in the vineyard (21:33-39)**

A. the patience and love the owner of the vineyard

B. the great wickedness of the tenants (Nehemiah 9:22-26)

C. the finality of the Owner sending his Son

D. the judgment that comes on wicked tenants (Ezekiel 34:1-10)

V. **A rejected stone becomes the cornerstone (21:40-46)**

Who are the other people who bear fruit?

Gentiles, church, church leaders, Christ