

Pastor Roy's Sermon on "Matthew 21:23-46" (January 14, 2026)

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. The religious leaders asked Jesus about His authority despite witnessing His miracles and teachings. What causes people today to demand proof of God's authority even when evidence surrounds them?
2. Jesus posed a question about John the Baptist that the religious leaders refused to answer honestly. How do we sometimes avoid difficult spiritual questions because the truth would require us to change?
3. In the parable of the two sons, one initially refused but later obeyed, while the other promised obedience but failed to follow through. Which son do you most identify with in your spiritual walk, and why?
4. The tax collectors and prostitutes entered the kingdom before the religious leaders because they believed and repented. What does this reveal about God's priorities regarding outward religiosity versus genuine heart transformation?
5. The tenants in the vineyard parable killed the prophets and eventually the son to claim the inheritance for themselves. In what ways do we attempt to claim God's blessings while rejecting His authority over our lives?
6. The religious leaders correctly identified the judgment that should fall on the wicked tenants, yet failed to see they were pronouncing judgment on themselves. How can we guard against spiritual blindness that prevents us from recognizing our own sin?
7. Jesus quoted Scripture about the rejected cornerstone to men who studied Scripture daily yet missed its fulfillment. How can familiarity with biblical knowledge become a barrier to actually encountering God?
8. The sermon mentions that hardened hearts lead to closed eyes, stopped ears, and dead minds. What practices or attitudes contribute to spiritual hardening, and how can we maintain soft, receptive hearts toward God?
9. The religious leaders perceived Jesus was speaking about them but only grew more determined to kill Him. Why do some people respond to conviction with greater rebellion rather than repentance?
10. The closing illustration emphasizes living under Christ's authority before ministering with His authority. What areas of your life need to be brought more fully under Christ's authority before you can effectively serve in His name?