



KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 21
- Psalms 118:22-26
- Psalms 8:1-9

Title:

GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE

- Defining Moments
- Turning the Tables
- In-Your-Face

We often emphasize the “gentle as a dove” side of Jesus: His gripping compassion, undeserving forgiveness, admirable meekness, authentic humility, unmerited mercy, never-ending grace, and His uncanny ability to understand everything about us and to touch our hearts exactly the way we need at the precise moment we need it.

But there’s another side to Jesus, the “wise as a serpent” side. It’s the in-your-face side that says it like it is—not that He had completely avoided confrontation before; He had His moments. He rebuked a few cities, addressed controversies over the Sabbath, referred to religious leaders as hypocrites and called their doctrine hypocrisy, and even rebuked them when their manmade traditions caused violations against God’s laws. But now we are just four days from His crucifixion, and gentle Jesus has begun the final phase of His earthly ministry. Suddenly He does not seem so measured in how He deals with the religious elite. In fact, He seems to have gone on the offensive.

Can you recall what happened after King David committed that atrocity with Bathsheba and then schemed to cover it up? He would do anything to hide his mistake, even murder. He could have taken any available woman he desired. Instead, he impregnated a married woman and had her poor husband killed to hide his sin. Immediately the Lord sends Nathan, David’s prophet, to tell him a story. It’s a parable but David thinks it’s real. It’s the type of story you tell someone to show him something about himself. Nathan describes a poor man who owned one little lamb, a lamb his entire family treated like one of the children. He also depicts a rich man who refused to feed a hungry traveler from his many flocks and herds, so he confiscated the poor man’s only lamb. David was infuriated that anyone could do such a thing—a man like that should be put to death. Yes, a man who owns many and takes from a man who has just one deserves death, after he restores the poor man four-fold. David is being more than a bit obtuse here, don’t you think? Nathan then fills in the blank; “David, you are that man!”

Y’shua uses the same approach towards religious hypocrites, for whom He has grown increasingly intolerant. He tells a story of two sons, one who says he won’t obey, but does, and one who says he will obey, but does not. Then He shares an elaborate parable about a business owner and the operators who run his vineyard. The end of the story has the operators rejecting and killing THE SON of the owner, somehow believing they can usurp his inheritance and get away with it. They can’t and they don’t.

After the story the Pharisees, listening nearby, looked at one another and said, “I think He is talking about us!” You think? Earth to religious hypocrites—He is! Their reaction: No worries, we’re not offended; it taught us a valuable lesson. NOT! Their true sentiment: Let’s get this guy and take Him out, so we don’t have to give Him what is

rightfully His: our obedience, loyalty, thanksgiving, and praise! Hey, wait a second; that's exactly what the parable exposed! Brilliant, simply brilliant. Gentle as a dove AND wise as a serpent!

PROPHETIC SEED:

"Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, **they perceived that He was speaking of them.**" Matthew 21:45 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

"From the mouths of children and nursing babies You have **ordained praise** on account of Your adversaries, so that You might **put an end to the vindictive enemy.**" Psalms 8:2 NET

DEFINING MOMENTS

1. Four Days and Counting

A. Three Defining Moments

(1) His Arrival

(a) He is the Lamb of God!

1. "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 NKJV

(b) He is the Son of God!

1. "And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "**This is My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased."" Matthew 3:17 NKJV

(c) He is the Kingdom of God!

1. "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"" Matthew 4:17 NKJV (and Matthew 3:2)

(2) The Turn Home (*this is where we are in Matthew 21*)

(a) He is the Messiah who comes in the Name of Yahweh!

1. "Then **the multitudes** who went before and those who followed **cried out**, saying: "Hosanna to the **Son of David!** 'Blessed is **He who comes in the name of the Lord!**' Hosanna in the highest!"" Matthew 21:9 NKJV

(b) "**Who is this?**" **This is Y'shua (Yahweh is Salvation)**

1. "And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "**Who is this?**" So the multitudes said, "**This is Jesus**, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."" Matthew 21:10-11 NKJV

(3) The Point of No Return (*coming soon*)

(a) In the Garden when He chose to stay...forever!

1. "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, **not as I will, but as You will.**"" Matthew 26:39 NKJV (again in Matthew 26:42)

(b) Why forever? In compliance with the Law of the Hebrew Servant!

1. "If you buy a **Hebrew servant**, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. But if the servant plainly says, '**I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,**' then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall **pierce** his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever." Exodus 21:2-6 NKJV
 2. Y'shua came to earth as a bondservant without a wife: *"made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**"* Philippians 2:7 NKJV
- (c) Even when those close to Him attempted to stop it, He was steadfast in His decision!
1. "But Jesus said to him, "Friend [*Judas*], why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus [*John 18:10 says it was Peter*] stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, "**Put your sword in its place**, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or **do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?**" Matthew 26:50-53 NKJV

B. The Triumphal Entry (Defining Moment #2)

(1) A Defining Moment and Prophetic Treasure Trove

(a) Four days before the crucifixion...

1. "Now **when they drew near Jerusalem**, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, '**The Lord has need of them,**' and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was **spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.' "** So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. **And a very great multitude** spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "**Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!**" And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "**Who is this?**" So the multitudes said, "**This is Jesus**, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."" Matthew 21:1-11 NKJV

(2) Prophetic Timeout!

- (a) When you go directly to the words of the prophet, he also includes Rejoice greatly; He is just and having salvation.
1. "**Rejoice greatly**, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; **He is just and having salvation**, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey." Zechariah 9:9 NKJV

(b) And if you continue in the words of the prophet just until the end of the same chapter, the prophetic pictures unfolds...

1. **BEFORE:** *“A mixed race shall settle in Ashdod, And I will cut off the pride of the Philistines. I will take away the blood from his mouth, And the abominations from between his teeth. But he who remains, even he shall be for our God, And shall be like a leader in Judah, And Ekron like a Jebusite. I will camp around My house Because of the army, Because of him who passes by and him who returns. No more shall an oppressor pass through them, For now I have seen with My eyes.”* Zechariah 9:6-8 NKJV
2. **AFTER:** *“I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.’ “As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to the stronghold, You prisoners of hope. Even today I declare That I will restore double to you. For I have bent Judah, My bow, Fitted the bow with Ephraim, And raised up your sons, O Zion, Against your sons, O Greece, And made you like the sword of a mighty man.” Then the Lord will be seen over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning. The Lord God will blow the trumpet, And go with whirlwinds from the south. The Lord of hosts will defend them; They shall devour and subdue with slingstones. They shall drink and roar as if with wine; They shall be filled with blood like basins, Like the corners of the altar. The Lord their God will save them in that day, As the flock of His people. For they shall be like the jewels of a crown, Lifted like a banner over His land— For how great is its goodness And how great its beauty! Grain shall make the young men thrive, And new wine the young women.”* Zechariah 9:10-17 NKJV
3. *“Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, **Elijah is coming first** and will restore all things. But I say to you that **Elijah has come already**, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of **John the Baptist**.”* (Matthew 17:11-13)
4. *“He [John] will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* (Luke 1:17)
5. *“Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn** The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”* (Malachi 4:5-6)

(3) The disciples what they are instructed to do...

(a) Drawing again from prophecy and using what you just learned about going to the source...Let us explore *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”*

1. *“The **stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone**. This was the Lord’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. **This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.** {25} **Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.** {26} **Blessed is he who comes***

*in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.” Psalms 118:22-26 NKJV
(You should take your time to read all of Psalm 118.)*

(4) What day did He ride into Jerusalem?

(a) This day is what we classically understand as Palm Sunday.

1. “Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘**On the tenth of this month [four days before Passover]** every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb **[Y’shua was the Lamb for EVERYONE]**. Your **lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year**. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until **the fourteenth day of the same month [Passover begins as the sun sets on the 14th and it becomes the 15th]**. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.” **[That is why Y’shua was killed on the 14th and was in the grave before sunset—because He was the Passover Lamb that year.]** Exodus 12:3-6 NKJV
2. He told us He would be in the grave three days and three nights. *“An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except **the sign of the prophet Jonah** [Jonah 1:17]. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, **so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights** [72 hours] **in the heart of the earth.**”* Matthew 12:39-40 NKJV
3. *“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and **has become the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.”* I Corinthians 15:20 NKJV
4. *“Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, **“You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”**”* Matthew 26:1-2 NKJV

(5) *Chief Cornerstone Goodies (See [In Him in You PART I](#))

- (a) The foundation of the Church is comprised of three foundation stones, one being the Chief Cornerstone, Christ, and the other two being the apostle and prophet.
1. *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of **the household of God**, having been built on **the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**, in whom **the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord**, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”* Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV
 2. *“Do you not know that **you are the temple of God and that the Spirit** of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, **which temple you are.**”* I Corinthians 3:16-17 NKJV
 3. *“Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

- (b) The Chief Cornerstone: Later in this very chapter, Y'shua rounds out what will take place, prophetically, throughout the four days after He enters the city. It is the people who declare...
1. *"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"* (Matthew 21:9) and it those words from Psalms 118:26 that also brought us to Psalms 118:28..." *"The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone."* And Y'shua will build on this a bit later when He grabs that idea from *Psalm 118* and declares that He is the Chief Cornerstone. *"Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"* Matthew 21:42
- (c) Peter, afterwards, would masterfully describe how these stones fit together (the apostle, prophet and Chief Cornerstone).
1. **"Coming to Him as to a living stone**, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, **you also, as living stones**, are being **built up a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, **"Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone**, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, **"The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"** and **"A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense."** They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed." I Peter 2:4-8 NKJV
 2. "For the Lord spoke thus to me **with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way** of this people, saying: **"Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy,** Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, And let Him be your dread. {14} He will be as a sanctuary, ***But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense*** To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. {15} **And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken."** Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples." Isaiah 8:11-16 NKJV
- (d) Calling all Disciples: Those who come against Y'shua will say it's all conspiracy theory when they are accused of such. But they will fall.
1. *"And whoever falls on this stone **will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."***" Matthew 21:44 NKJV

TURNING THE TABLES

2. Putting Your Opponents on Notice

A. Cleansing the Temple

(1) Get the sin out!

(a) "Do You hear what they are saying?"

1. "Then Jesus **went into the temple** of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And

He said to them, "It is written, '**My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'**" Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "**Hosanna to the Son of David!**" they were indignant and said to Him, "**Do You hear what these are saying?**" And Jesus said to them, "**Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?**" Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there." Matthew 21:12-17 NKJV

(2) Y'shua drives out all the merchants and bankers who are taking advantage of the people, while conducting commerce around the temple.

(a) Y'shua on Leaven...Beware!

1. ..."**Beware of the leaven** of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**." Luke 12:1 NKJV
2. .."**Take heed and beware of the leaven** of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." ...not the leaven of bread, **but of the doctrine** of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Matthew 16:6, 11-12 NKJV

(b) Sin is lawless...DO NOT SIN!

1. "**Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness**, and sin is lawlessness. ...**Whoever abides in Him does not sin**. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. ...**Whoever has been born of God does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; **and he cannot sin**, because he has been born of God." I John 3:4-6, 9 NKJV
2. "Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, ...**do not** present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, ... **For sin shall not have dominion over you**, ... **Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!**" Romans 6:12-15 NKJV

(c) Don't even entertain sin!

1. **A little leaven** leavens the whole lump." Galatians 5:9 NKJV
2. "... **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, ..." Hebrews 12:1 NKJV

(3) At that point Y'shua heals the blind and the lame who came to Him in the Temple.

(a) And when we again explore the source, we see that what Y'shua is BOLDLY claiming is this! "*I am God and it is the innocent children who can see it, and those who don't are His enemies!*"

1. "**O Lord, our Lord, how magnificent is your reputation throughout the earth! You reveal your majesty in the heavens above! {2} From the mouths of children and nursing babies you have ordained praise** on account of your adversaries, so that you might **put an end to the vindictive enemy**. When I look up at the heavens, which your fingers made, and see the moon and the stars, which you set in place, Of what importance is the human race, that you should notice them? Of what importance is mankind, that you should pay attention to them, and make them a little less than the heavenly beings? **You grant mankind honor and majesty**; you appoint them to rule over your creation; you have placed everything under their authority, including all the sheep and cattle, as well as the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea and everything that moves through the currents of the seas. **O Lord, our Lord, how magnificent is your reputation throughout the earth!**" Psalms 8:1-9 NET

(b) Y'shua leaves for Bethany to lodge overnight.

B. Turning the Tables

(1) Sample Narratives (without commentary)

(a) David turns the table on Goliath: Just appreciate how many times David turns the table on Goliath and the Philistines—turning a position of disadvantage into one of advantage!

1. “Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him. Then **David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”** And Saul said to David, **“You are not able to go against this Philistine** to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. **Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them,** seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” Moreover David said, **“The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”** And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!” So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, **“I cannot walk with these,** for I have not tested them.” So David took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand; and he **chose for himself five smooth stones** from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. **And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him;** for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. So the Philistine said to David, **“Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?”** And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And **the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”** Then David said to the Philistine, **“You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts,** the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and **I will strike you and take your head from you.** And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.” So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that **David hurried and ran toward** the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and **struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.** So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut

off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.” I Samuel 17:31-51 NKJV (Read all I Samuel 17)

(b) Phinehas turns the tables on God’s wrath and stops the plague, and is rewarded with a covenant of peace—turning a position of disadvantage into one of advantage!

1. “Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and **took a javelin in his hand**; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent **and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.** And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand. Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has **turned back My wrath** from the children of Israel, **because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children** of Israel in My zeal. Therefore say, ‘**Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace**; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ” Numbers 25:7-13 NKJV

IN-YOUR-FACE

3. Three Days and Counting

A. The Fig Tree

(1) Not So Gentle Jesus

(a) Y’shua heads back to Jerusalem three days before Passover!

1. “**Now in the morning, as He returned to the city**, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, “**Let no fruit grow on you ever again.**” **Immediately the fig tree withered away.** And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither away so soon?” So Jesus answered and said to them, “**Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt**, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. And **whatever things you ask in prayer, believing**, you will receive.”” Matthew 21:18-22 NKJV

(2) On His way back to Jerusalem in the morning, He finds a fig tree that should have fruit on it, but it doesn’t.

(a) You will be able to do things like this and even more, He promises. But you must have faith! You must pray and believe!

1. And **whatever things you ask in prayer, believing**, you will receive.”” Matthew 21:22
2. “Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me**, the works that I do he will do also; and **greater works than these he will do, because** I go to My Father.” John 14:12 NKJV
3. Ask in prayer and believe—and you will do even greater works. But... only if you have faith and do not doubt...” Matthew 21:21

(3) In last week’s sermon ([Dilating the Pupils](#)) we taught about some of the other parameters that make up proper asking...

- (a) **In His name (authority):** “And whatever you **ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask **anything in My name**, I will do it.” John 14:13-14 NKJV
- (b) **In His will:** “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask **anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever **we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**” I John 5:14-15 NKJV
- (c) **Without selfish motives:** “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss**, that you may spend it **on your pleasures.**” James 4:1-3 NKJV
- (d) **And we can reiterate Matthew 21:21 here with what James say about doubting:** “But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**” James 1:6-8 NKJV

B. Questioning Authority

- (1) Wise as a serpent
 - (a) Answering questions with questions!
 - 1. “Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, **“By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?”** But Jesus answered and said to them, **“I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?”** And they reasoned among themselves, saying, **“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.”** So they answered Jesus and said, **“We do not know.”** And He said to them, **“Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”** Matthew 21:23-27 NKJV
- (2) Y’shua goes back to the Temple and His authority is questioned by the religious leaders.
 - (a) In classic rabbinic style He answers with a question.
 - 1. *“And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”** Matthew 3:17 NKJV*

C. The Parable of the Two Sons

- (1) Y’shua sets all gentleness aside...
 - (a) Tax collectors and harlots will enter the kingdom of God before you!
 - 1. *““But what do you think? **A man had two sons**, and he came **to the first** and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came **to the second** and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. **Which of the two did the will of his father?”** They said to Him, **“The first.”** Jesus said to them, **“Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.** For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and*

harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him."Matthew 21:28-32 NKJV

D. The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers

(1) Yes, I'm talking to you!

(a) But when they saw the son...

1. "'Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and **built a tower**. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. **And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son** to them, saying, '**They will respect my son.**' But **when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'** So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "**Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.** This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. **And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.**" Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, **they perceived that He was speaking of them.** But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet." Matthew 21:33-46 NKJV

(b) Your turn!

1. "I am sending you out like **sheep surrounded by wolves**, so be **wise as serpents and innocent as doves.**" Matthew 10:16 NET
2. "The wicked person flees when there is no one pursuing, but **the righteous person is as confident [BOLD] as a lion. When a country is rebellious it has many princes,** but by someone who is **discerning and knowledgeable [wise, intelligent]** order is maintained." Proverbs 28:1-2 NET
3. "**Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man!** Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, **So their root will be as rottenness,** And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore **the anger of the Lord is aroused against His people; He has stretched out His hand against them And stricken them,** And the hills trembled. Their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. **For all this His anger is not turned away,** But His hand is stretched out still. **He will lift up a banner to the nations**

from afar, And will whistle to them from the end of the earth; Surely they shall come with speed, swiftly. No one will be weary or stumble among them, No one will slumber or sleep; Nor will the belt on their loins be loosed, Nor the strap of their sandals be broken; Whose arrows are sharp, And all their bows bent; Their horses' hooves will seem like flint, And their wheels like a whirlwind. **Their roaring will be like a lion, They will roar like young lions; Yes, they will roar And lay hold of the prey; They will carry it away safely, And no one will deliver. In that day they will roar against them Like the roaring of the sea.** And if one looks to the land, Behold, darkness and sorrow; And the light is darkened by the clouds." Isaiah 5:20-30 NKJV