

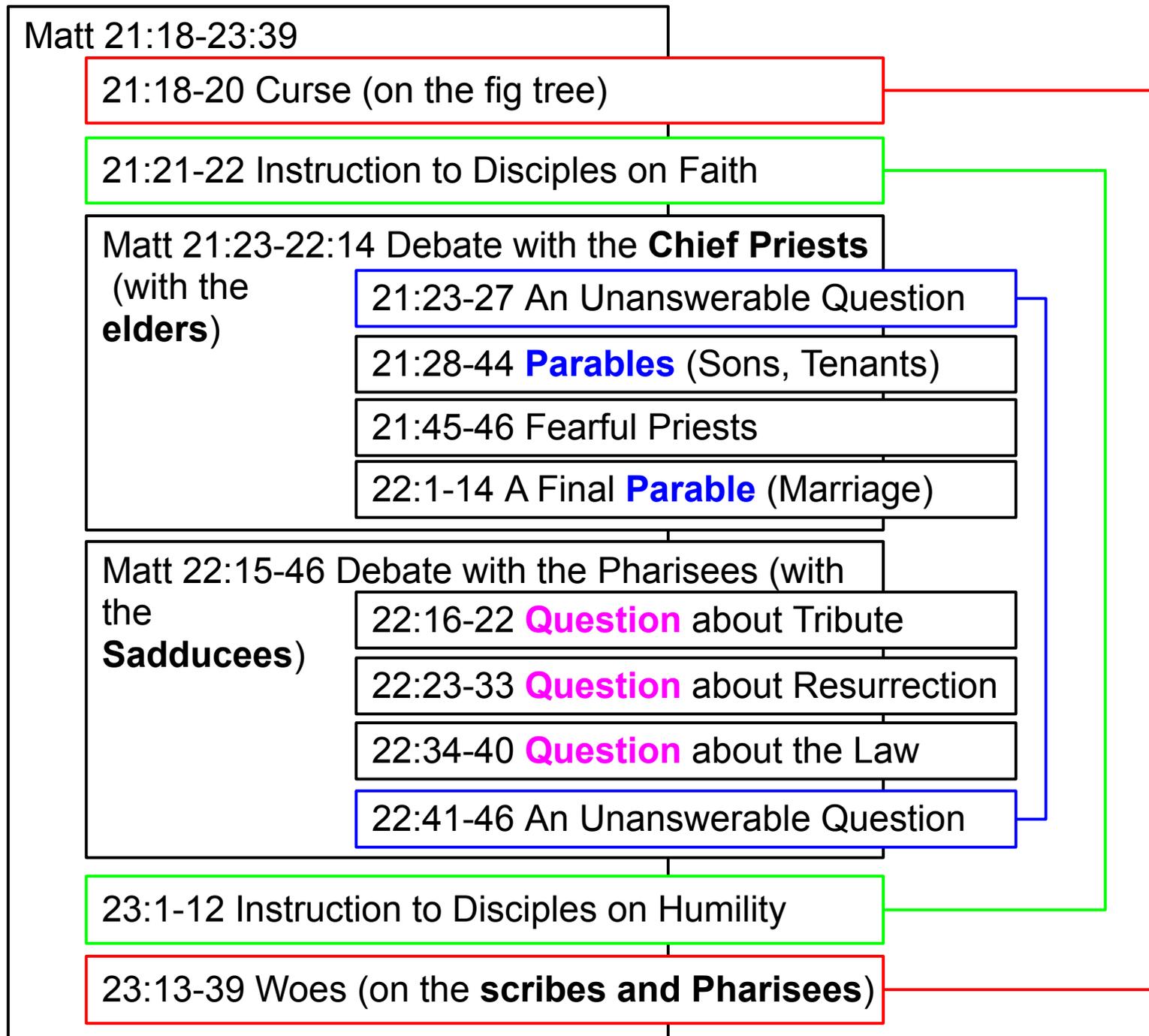
# Treasure Hunt

- Explain the relationships among the chief priests, the scribes, the elders, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees.
- Why was it not unreasonable for the Lord to expect figs on the fig tree?
- How is the fig tree a good illustration of hypocrisy?
- What are the three conditions for answered prayer, and how are they related?
- How is the Lord's question to the Chief Priests about John the Baptist a good answer to the question they asked him about his authority?

# Structure of 20:17-25:45

|              |                | Genre  |                               |
|--------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------|
|              |                | Narrative  | Exposition                    |
| Participants | Disciples      | 20:17-34<br>Final Ascent                           | Ch. 24-25<br>Olivet Discourse |
|              | Jewish Leaders | 21:1-17<br>Triumphal Entry<br>Cleansing the Temple | 21:18-23:39<br>Great Debate   |

# The Great Debate



# The Lord's Adversaries

Functional titles: “he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes” (16:21) → members of the Sanhedrin

- **Elders:** leading lay families
  - Always associated with priests (except for 15:2)
  - Example: Joseph of Arimathaea
- **Chief priests:** clergy
- **Scribes:** students of the Scriptures. Example: Ezra (also a priest, 7:6)
 

Ezr 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Theological parties

- **Sadducees:** elite, rationalistic (no resurrection)
  - Act 5:17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,)
- **Pharisees:** popular, literalistic
  - “Scribes and Pharisees” 11x in Matthew

Functional Groups in the Sanhedrin

Theological Parties

|               | Pharisees | Sadducees |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Chief Priests |           | X         |
| Elders        |           |           |
| Scribes       | X         |           |

# Micah's Quest for Early Figs



<http://newbiblicalunderstanding.info/figs.and.leaf.jpg>

Mic 7:1 Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: *there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit [figs].*

2 The good *man* is perished out of the earth: and *there is* none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. 3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge *asketh* for a reward; and the great *man*, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up. 4 The best of them *is* as a brier: the most upright *is sharper* than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen *and* thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity. 5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. 6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies *are* the men of his own house.

7 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

# Conditions for Answered Prayer

## Faith:

Matt 21:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye **have faith**, and **doubt not**, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. 22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, **believing**, ye shall receive.

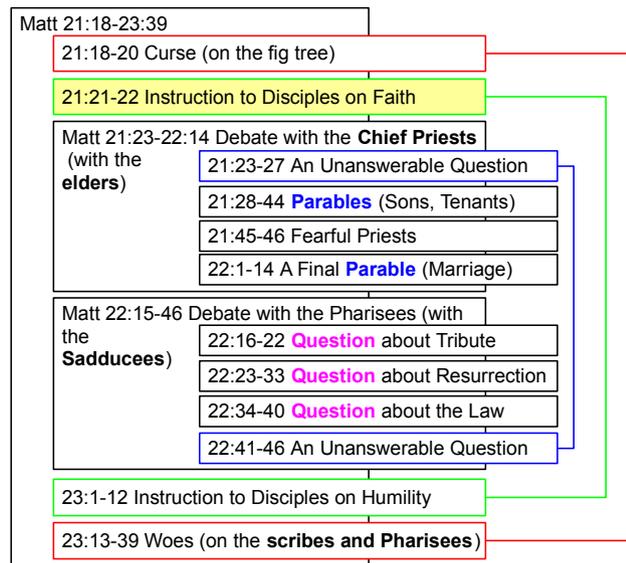
Mat 17:20 for verily I say unto you, If ye **have faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

## Abiding Words:

Joh 15:7 If ye **abide in me**, and **my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

## Jesus' Name:

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father **in my name, he may give it you.** (also 14:13, 14; 16:23, 24)



# How are the Conditions Related?

Matt 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, **believing**, ye shall receive.

Rom 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Joh 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

Joh 15:7 If ye **abide in me**, and **my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Joh 15:16 whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father **in my name**, **he may give it you**.

1Ki 21:6 And **he said** unto [Jezebel], Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee *another* vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. 7 And Jezebel his wife ... 8 ... wrote letters **in Ahab's name**, and sealed *them* with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that *were* in his city, dwelling with Naboth.

# The First Unanswerable Question

## Intrinsic vs. Extrinsic Authority

Mat 7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

## The appeal to John:

Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias [40:3], saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

## John (continued...)

Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees [the party of the priests] come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

## Their problem (v. 26):

Pro 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

