



Setting

- Everything in **Matthew 21:18-26:16** occurred on this Tuesday.
- This man was a scribe. **Mark 12:28**

Facts Of The Borderland

- “Not far” implies degrees; far, farther, farthest.
- Sin separates from God. (**Isaiah 59:1-2**)
 - Some are farther away. **Jeremiah 2:5; Matthew 15:8**
 - Songs suggest such.
 - “Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam, Farther and Farther away...”

Facts Of The Borderland

Some who were not far from the kingdom.

Luke 12:47

- Rich Young Ruler. **Mark 10:21**
- Joseph and Nicodemus. **John 19:38ff**
- Agrippa. **Acts 26:26-28**

Meaning Of The Borderland

- This man was different.
 - From the Pharisees. **Matthew 23 (v. 13)**
 - From the Sadducees. **Matthew 22:23-33**
 - From the Publicans, Sinners, Multitudes.
- This man had admirable characteristics.
 - Knowledge of God’s word. cf. **John 6:44ff; Matthew 11:28ff**
 - Discerning mind. cf. **1 Samuel 15:22; Matthew 9:1-13**
 - Courage. cf. **John 12:42ff**

Close, but not close enough!!!

Meaning Of The Borderland

- Many on the border land.
 - Good habits, disposition.
 - Good knowledge of Scripture.
 - Defend the truth.
 - Noble resolutions. “I intend one day to become a Christian.”

Close, but not close enough!!!

Tragedy Of The Borderland

- Difficult to convince the borderland resident. cf. **Matthew 12:30**
- Tragedy seen in death. cf. **Revelation 13:14; Deuteronomy 34:1-5**
- Tragedy seen in Judgment. **Matthew 25:31-46**

Tragedy Of The Borderland

- May be “Only A Step,” but to miss by a step is to miss altogether.
- “Almost persuaded.....Almost, but lost!”

