



Storyteller

THE TWO BROTHERS

PART 12
MATTHEW 21:28-32

Matthew 21:28-32, *“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29 And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. 30 And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”*

1. ACTIONS SPEAK

Matthew 21:28-30, *“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”*

TWO SONS

- ✳ The first son said, “I will not!” He initially disobeyed his father, but then for some reason, the first son changes his mind! In the end he goes to the vineyard.
- ✳ The second son said, “I will, sir!” But for some reason, the second son never followed through.

TWO GROUPS

- ✳ **Matthew 21:31**, *Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”*
- ✳ “The tax-gatherers and harlots were nearer the kingdom than the chief priests and elders, not because they were inherently more righteous or acceptable to God, but because they were more ready to acknowledge their need for God’s grace than the self-satisfied priests and elder.” - John MacArthur

TWO RESPONSES

- ✳ **Matthew 21:23**, *“And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”*
- ✳ They are looking at the Son of God standing in the courts of God, yet the religious leaders question where He gets his authority. The irony could’t be thicker.
- ✳ “There is more hope for those who are consciously wicked than of the self-satisfied.” - Herbert Lockyer

TWO OPINIONS ON JOHN THE BAPTIST

- * Some people believed that John was a prophet of God, but most religious leaders did not.
- * **Matthew 21:25-26**, *"The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it 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 man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."*
- * John fulfills prophecy & was conceived supernaturally (Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1, Luke 1:7-13).
- * John bore witness about Jesus, he prepared people to meet Jesus (Luke 1:16-17).
- * John announced the coming of the Kingdom (Matthew 3:1-2). "The Kingdom is at hand"
- * John preached & baptized with a 'baptism of repentance' (Mark 1:4, Matthew 3:3-8, Acts 19:4).
- * John baptized Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17).
- * John became a martyred prophet (Matt 14:1-12).
- * **Luke 7:28-30**, *"I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)*

TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE

- * Sinners in need of grace who believe and receive.
- * Sinners who simply won't believe.

2. ACTIONS REVEAL

Matthew 21:32, *"For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."*

BELIEF & NEW LIFE

- * **Believe** | To consider something to be true and therefore worthy of one's trust.
- * **John 1:12**, *"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*
- * The story of the sinful woman & the Simon the Pharisee can be found in Luke 7:36-49.
- * **Psalm 32:8-9**, *"The Lord says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.'"*

BELIEF & NEW HEART

- * **Repent** | to change one's mind about something... have second thought. NIV: "You did not repent."
- * **Acts 2:38**, *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
- * **Acts 17:30-31**, *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."*
- * **1 Corinthians 5:17**, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*
- * **James 1:22**, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*