

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: The Parable of the Two Sons

Sermon Series: Radical Stories of the Kingdom

Sermon Text: Matthew 21:28-32

OPENING QUESTION

1. Growing up, did you have a reputation for being more of a “good kid” or a “bad kid”? What was it like to have either reputation?

INTO THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 21:28-32

2. Who was Jesus talking to in this passage? How does this relate to our passage? (See Matthew 21:23-27)
3. What does this parable tell us about what God values and does not value in people in terms of obedience?
4. Based upon v.32, what did Jesus expect the religious leaders to respond when they saw God changing the lives of “sinners” (tax collectors and prostitutes)? How did the religious leaders respond instead?

GOING DEEPER (Sharing/Application)

5. Imagine a person who has a reputation of living of lying, cheating, sleeping around, and being self-absorbed. How would people respond if such a person came to work (or home) one day and proclaimed, “I’m not a Christian!” How would you respond?

Why might people be incredulous about such a claim?

6. In the sermon, we heard that people may want to have the appearance of obedience more than the appearance of repentance. Why would people want to have the reputation of being obedient versus repentant?

Do you struggle with wanting to appear more obedient than repentant?

7. If God values repentance more than the mask of obedience, what does this say about our need for a Savior?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners?’” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to all the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:11-13, NIV)