

## **The Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:23-32)**

Most of Jesus' parables arise from specific occasion answering questions

Jesus' question to the Pharisees' question sets the stage for Jesus' teaching.

Jesus exposes the heart of those who claim to know God but deny Him

### **I. Significance of Context & Background to the Parable (21:23-27)**

Jesus enters Jerusalem (triumphal entry) people went after Him (vv1-11)

Jesus went into the temple, drove out money changers (vv.12-17)

Next morning, Jesus cursed the fig tree (Israel) & it withered (vv.18-22)

Context: Pharisees ask Jesus by what authority is he doing this? (v. 23)

Jesus answers with a question: John's baptism was it from God or men?

They knew if they said God, they would have to believe Jesus' claims

If they say man, people turn on them believing John to be sent from God

They say "we do not know," Jesus "neither will I tell you...my authority

### **II. The Parable (21:28-30)**

The father has two sons: "Go work in my vineyard" (vs 28)

1. 1<sup>st</sup> son: "I will not," but afterward he regretted. Actions better than words
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> son: "**I go, sir, but he did not go.**" His words are better than his actions

### **III. The Point of the Parable (21:31-32)**

Jesus asks the question: Which of the two did the will of *his* father?"

The people answer plainly: **They said to Him, "The first. Why?**

His actions: better than his words -his end: better than his beginning

Jesus' point: Sinners entering into heaven ahead of religious hypocrites

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