

Matthew 21:23-46

It's About the Kingdom

Interrogated in the Temple ...

- I. Calling for Credentials
 - A. These Things You Do?
 - B. What Gives You the Right?
- II. Questioning the Critics
 - A. What About John?
 - B. And Your Rejection?
 - C. Examine Your Behavior
- III. Consider the Message
 - A. The Power of the Gospel
 - B. The Beauty of Repentance
 - C. And the Kingdom of God

... answering to God.

Children, Listen ...

1. What did the chief priests and elders want to know from Jesus?
2. Jesus does not answer them, but what do you think the answer their question is?
3. Which of the two sons in Jesus' story does the right thing?
4. Who is better off?
 - A. Someone who knows they are a sinner and turns to Jesus for forgiveness?
 - B. Someone who thinks they are good and just keeps trying to be good?

The King, Two Kids, and the Kingdom

The leaders of the people challenged Jesus as to the source of His authority regarding the “wonderful things” He had done and the extraordinary claims He made about Himself. Jesus turns the tables on them and puts them in the defendant's seat in order to get to the heart of their issue of unbelief. They had rejected John the Baptist's prophetic Gospel message about Jesus because they did not see the need nor did they fancy the idea of repentance. They basically gave lip service to obedience to God but neglected acting upon it. In contrast many overtly rebellious and disobedient sinners heard the call to repent and believe and became heirs of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' illustration posed a probing question to His detractors just as it does to all who hear it today: in keeping with His analogy, we are to ask ourselves, *which son describes me?*