

Personal Study Questions to Help Prepare for the Sermon

Read Matthew 21:28-32

- ◆ How does Matthew 21:18-19 shape the context of this parable?
- ◆ Why did the first son finally obey? Why did the second one fail to follow through on his promise to obey?
- ◆ How can we close the gap between our good intentions and our obedience?
- ◆ What right does the father have to command his sons to do work in his vineyard? What does this teach us about God's authority in our lives?
- ◆ Which son offended his father more? Why do you think this is so?
- ◆ Why are good intentions without obedience an offense to God?
- ◆ Why did the first son reject the father's authority? What does this teach us about the heart of man?
- ◆ What may prompt someone to first rebel and then submit to God's authority? What part does God play in this transformation?
- ◆ If a person leaves church on Sunday with good intentions, why might they fail to follow through in obedience? How does God view this? What can we do after Sunday morning to keep ourselves from offending God in this way?
- ◆ Why did the second son say he would obey the father's command? What does this teach us about the heart of man?
- ◆ What is the Gospel and how does it change hearts?
- ◆ How are we tempted to be like the second son? What keeps us from acting upon our good intentions?
- ◆ What does this story teach us about the nature of true obedience?



Small Groups

Guide for sermon on
May 18, 2014

Group Discussion Questions

1. What is the main point from the Scripture as it was taught on Sunday?
2. Are there any Study Questions from the week that you want to discuss?
3. What difference should this Scripture make in our lives today?
4. How does God want your personal beliefs and actions to change based on this Scripture?
5. How can you plan to accomplish this change with God's grace this week? What is the first step toward bringing about this change?

This Week's Memory Verse:

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:6-8