

Sermon Title: Children of the Kingdom

Date: 07-13-2025

Pray and Read the Text together

- **Sermon Text:** Matthew 21:28-32

Some Possible Discussion Questions

1. What kind of person do you think of when you hear the term “Children of the Kingdom?”
2. What is Jesus expecting from his audience when he begins a parable or teaching with “What do you think?” Why would he ask this question first?
3. If you are willing to share – how does your life reflect the response of the two sons in the parable?
4. What is the relationship between obedience and salvation? Does justification require or produce obedience? In what ways?
5. What is the relationship between repentance and obedience? Have you had interactions with other people in your family that might speak into this?

Passage Context

- This is #6 in our Summer series walking through the parables.
- In this later section of Matthew, Jesus is delivering parables with the aim to rebuke the religious leaders of the time. And this message isn’t just for them, but also for us.

Sermon Introduction

- Our past parable sermons have talked about 3 themes around the Kingdom of God: 1) the person and work of Jesus Christ as king, 2) the nature of the kingdom, 3) the nature of the people of the kingdom.
- Today’s parable talks about how kingdom people are those who: believe, repent, and obey.
- In this passage, Jesus begins with “What do you think?” This is not a hypothetical question, but a question that demands a response. Jesus is exhorting us to answer this same question for ourselves today. He is, in effect, asking us which son (from the parable) we choose to be.
- The three points today highlight 3 characteristics of the children of the kingdom.

Sermon Outline

Children of Faith

- Children of the kingdom have faith in the proclaimed and accomplished redemptive work of Jesus.
- Jesus admonishes the religious leaders because they failed to believe John the Baptist (Mtt 21:24-27), yet John was preparing the way for Jesus. He was the Elijah that was to come (Matt 11:14, Mal 4:5-6).
- In missing John’s role, they missed the Day of the Lord. Children of the kingdom believe that in Jesus the day of the Lord has broken into redemptive history and has brought salvation

Children of Repentance

- Faith has both an object (God and His redemptive work) and an expression (through repentance).
- In our parable, the first son says no, but then changes his mind. He repented.
- The gospel isn’t for those who have it right, but for those who change their minds, for those who repent from their wrongs and turn to Jesus (Matt 3:2, 8, 11, 4:17, 12:41).
- There is no greater news that you and I, sinners, rebels, enemies of God, can enter into the kingdom by faith and repentance. In Jesus there is forgiveness for all who repent.

Children of Obedience

- The first son, unlike the second, does the will of their father in the parable.
- Last week we learned what proceeds outward obedience is inward affection. Our minds must first be transformed for actions to be transformed.
- Obedience does not lead to kingdom entrance, but rather displays and express that we are kingdom children. (Matt 7:21, Matt 12:46-50).
- in our obedience to the will of God, we show that we are being renewed and transformed into the image of Jesus who perfectly and fully obeyed and fulfilled the will of God. (John 6:38, 4:34, 5:30).
- We believe in the King and eternal Son who accomplished and secured all of God's promises by submitting to the Father's will. (Matt 26:42).
- Our obedience is not an addition to our faith, but an expression of our faith in Christ Jesus. If we love Him, we will keep his commandments (John 14:15).

Sermon Conclusion

- This week, the church will host VBA, and we will use the framework of the ABCs of the gospel (A-admit to God you are a sinner; B-believe in Jesus; C-confess Jesus as Savior and Lord.)
The gospel is straightforward enough for a child to understand.
- Jesus posed the question, "What do you think?" How will we respond? Will we be like the first son who believed, repented, and obeyed, or the second son who lacked faith, remained in his own sins, and disobeyed? Will we enter and inherit the kingdom, or will we be excluded and cast out of the kingdom?

[#Sermon Link](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **Every Sunday** – No prayer or youth group until the fall
- **Back to School Drive** - June and July
- **VBA** – This week! July 14-18
- **Summer Palooza** – July 20 at Natick campus

Next Sunday's text: Luke 15:1-10; **Theme:** Repentance and Forgiveness