

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS  
The Heart Of The Matter  
Matthew 21:28-46  
Week 42 May 23, 2021  
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It is always about the relationship.  
The constant theme of Matthew is 'Everywhere Jesus went He healed people.'  
He asked what people wanted.

Jesus is going to point out the sins of the religious leaders.

### **Parable of Two Sons**

*"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'* <sup>29</sup> *"I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him. Matthew 21:28-32 NIV*

The Way of Righteousness that John taught begins with repentance.

The religious leaders are supposed to represent God to the people, but they don't. The people who are at first defiant listened to John the Baptist and responded by repenting and confessing their sins and will therefore be allowed entrance into Heaven before the religious leaders who insist they are righteous through their own actions.

### **Parable of the Landowner**

*"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.'* <sup>39</sup> *So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup> "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" <sup>41</sup> "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Matthew 21:38-41 NIV*

The vineyard is the world and it should be obvious that it all belongs to God

*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. Psalm 24:1*

Today people say whatever they want to say and when they have said it often enough they somehow come to the place of believing what they have made up.

### **JESUS IS THE CORNERSTONE**

*Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:*

*"The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes?"*

<sup>43</sup> *"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. <sup>44</sup> Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed." <sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. <sup>46</sup> They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet. Matthew 21:42-46 NIV*

If you have not discovered something new in the bible lately are you reading it like it was the first time or are you only seeing what you want to see?

That is what the religious leaders did. They saw what their tradition taught them to see. Jesus looks at the scripture and sees the original intent God had and teaches the people that.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a NIV*

These fruits come from our relationship with God through the Holy Spirit living in us. They do not come by our efforts to keep a set of rules we can never keep in our own strength.

Start each day in recognition of the God who owns the world and wants you to help care for it. It is always a matter of the heart.