

Connect Together

How much truth is in the statement: “It's not what you say, it's how you say it." Is this more or less important in the world today?

Lesson Verses - Matthew 21:28-32 (CSB)

28 “What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘My son, go work in the vineyard today.’ 29 “He answered, ‘I don’t want to,’ but later he changed his mind and went. 30 Then the man went to the other and said the same thing. ‘I will, sir,’ he answered, but he didn’t go. 31 Which of the two did his father’s will?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn’t believe him. Tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; but you, when you saw it, didn’t even change your minds then and believe him.

Study & Apply

1. Jesus begins to try and help the chief priests and the teachers of the law see their issue.

    a. In verse 31, the chief priests and the teachers of the law were able to answer Jesus' question accurately. What does this show? (Isaiah 42:20; Matthew 15:8)

    b. Read Matthew 3:7. It seems that these same people are coming to be baptized, yet John the Baptist does not want to baptize them. Why? What is their issue? (v.32; Matthew 12:33-34)

APPLY: Jesus shows that the chief priests and the teachers of the law do have the ability to reason and understand, yet they are unable to trust in Him. This places the responsibility on themselves. The issue is that their stubborn hearts are clogging up the revelation of the truth in God's Word and Jesus' testimony through the Holy Spirit.

How can we as believers prevent any heart clogging happening to us? (Romans 12:1-2, 13:14; Colossians 3:1-2, 12)

2. Let us take a closer look at the parable. Remember that believing in the gospel leads to works of faith (Acts 26:20; 1 Timothy 6:18; Titus 3:8, 14)

    a. What would it look like if the chief priests and the teachers have entered into the work of the vineyard (v.28) the right way? (Matthew 10:6-8; Matthew 6:33)

APPLY: Knowing the truth, how can we be ministers in the Kingdom of God both in word and in deed? What areas of ministry at TBC do you feel compelled to work in that would benefit the Kingdom of God?

Discuss & Share

While we may want to guard our speech and say things that are less offensive, we must still preach the gospel even while some may be offended. How should we share the Good News both in word and in deed with this in mind? When should we be unashamedly direct with what the Bible teaches, but when must we have some tact?

Grow & Minister

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.