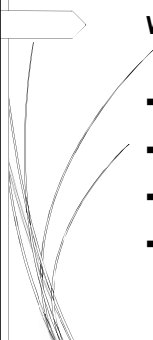




The Way of Righteousness

Matt 21:28-32

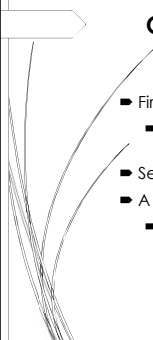
1



What Do You Think?

- First of three parables directed toward the Jewish leaders (chief priests and elders vs. 23)
- Unique to Matthew, along with the Parable of the Wedding Feast (22:1-14)
- First of two back-to-back vineyard parables on the heels of a sign-act with a fig-tree
- First time Jesus makes explicit *application* of a parable directly to a Jewish crowd

2



One Request, Two Responses

- First (Older?) Son | Initial rejection, ultimate obedience
 - "changed his mind" (Gr. *metamelomai*): to change one's mind with the probable implication of *regret*
- Second (Younger?) Son | Feigned obedience, ultimate rejection
- A self-condemning verdict
 - Correct! Which is bad news for you

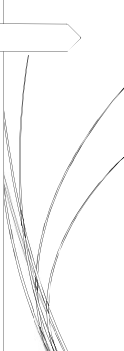
3



Divine Application | The Way of Righteousness

- The last are first
 - "before you" or "and not you"?
 - Answer: Yes
- "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance"
 - Tax collectors and prostitutes | Kingdom outcasts become Kingdom citizens
 - Chief priests and elders | Kingdom protectors become Kingdom enemies
 - "even when you saw it"
 - Self-intensified judgment (cf. Matt. 11:20-24)

4



Our Application

- The danger of confession without fruit-bearing repentance
 - Acknowledging my sin vs. self-condemnation over my sin vs. turning from my sin
- Evaluative discernment vs. Personal identification
 - We are often good at "discerning which" without "identifying with"
- Obedience: better late than never
 - Because of Jesus, a disobedient past or path is never irreversible

5
