

# PERFORMANCE IS WHAT COUNTS MATTHEW 21

Text:

Introduction:

Words are cheap and empty when they do not speak the truth. Theodore Roosevelt said, "Beware of the man who does not translate his words into deeds." What good is it for a man to say "I believe in Jesus," if his confessions does not represent the truth of his heart?

## **1. GOD HAS GIVEN US A COMMAND (28)**

(Mat 21:28) "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard."

- A. The command is based upon a relationship (son) (28 a)
- B. The command is to go (28 b)

Given to:

1. Abraham
2. Moses
3. Joshua
4. Gideon
5. Isaiah

C. The command requires effort - work (28 c)

D. The command is urgent - today (28 d)

E. The command is specific - in my vineyard (28 e)

## **2. PEOPLE RESPOND TO THIS COMMAND IN TWO WAYS (29-30)**

(Mat 21:29-30) "He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. {30} And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not."

A. Some balk at it at first, but later go.

1. Moses said, "I can't speak."

2. Jeremiah said, "I am just a child"

3. Gideon said, "I am the least of all"

B. Some agree to go but don't follow through.

### **3. GOD IS NOT PLEASED WITH MERE WORDS (31-32)**

(Mat 21:31-32) "Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. {32} For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."

A. Words are not enough

(Isa 29:13) "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:"

## B. Obedience is what really counts

(Luke 6:46) "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"