

# PHARISEE-ICAL PROFESSORS

## MATTHEW 21

Text: Matt 21:28-32, 45

Introduction:

Set the scene and give the background.

- Christ is entering into Jerusalem, and people waved palm branches and cried Hosanna.
- The next day Jesus gets their attention by clearing out the temple.
- The next day while teaching is questioned by the chief priest and the elders, "who gave Him the authority to preach and teach?"
- But instead of being intimidated by them He put them on the spot and asks them a question concerning their baptism.
- Notice in vs. 28 he got right to the point and did not try to make peace, nor compromised with those who were in the wrong, by telling this story and asking them what they thought.

# 1. WHAT THE FATHER COMMANDED (VS 28)

The Father's vineyard needs workers; who should be more interested than the sons? Notice:

A. The ground of the Father's claim.

1. Son (vs 28)

a. The father should have first claim to the son's time.

B. The desire of the Father's heart.

1. Work (vs 28)

a. What a grief it must be to our God to see so much work to be done and so many of His sons idle!

C. The urgency of the Father's request.

1. Today (vs 28)

a. The time for serving the Lord is now.

## 2. WHAT THE SONS SAID

### A. First son

#### 1. A decided and direct refusal (vs 29)

a. Showed the selfish indifference to the Fathers desire.

b. He did not have time to work in the vineyard.

c. The selfish Christian cares nothing about the perishing millions, or the grieving of the Fathers heart.

d. Also shows a heart in open rebellion.

### B. Second son

#### 1. A ready consent. (vs.30)

a. Spoke with noticeable respect - (sir)

### 3. WHAT THE SONS DID

A. There is often a vast difference between a man's profession and his actions.

B. It is not which of them talked the best or made the loudest profession.

C. By their deeds they are justified or condemned.

D. His Word is fulfilled in our doing of it, not in talking about it.

1. The one repented and obeyed.

a. Repentance always precedes the doing of the Will of God.

b. The bold, self-willed rebel is usually the first to yield and obey.

## 2. The other promised and failed.

a. The second son's words were not spoke not out of respect, or loyalty to the Father, but rather out of a prideful heart full of deceit.

b. Represents I believe those who respond today to the alter call, but is responding only to ease their conscience or so that others may think that they are real spiritual.

c. We do not get right with God at the altar, nor do we do His will there.

d. We might decide to get right and to do His will there but it is done in the world.

e. The job will never get completed with these type of professions of people.

Close:

The priest and the elders wanted to know who had given Jesus the authority to teach and preach. Jesus answers their question by holding up this parable as a mirror before their eyes that they may see their sin. The way to understand the authority of Christ is to see our real state before Him. Those who pride themselves in their own supposed goodness will always remain in ignorance of Christ authority and saving power.