

**OPEN**

Why do you struggle and grimace when someone tells you to do something?

**MATTHEW 21:28-32**

<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘My son, go work in the vineyard today.’

<sup>29</sup> “He answered, ‘I don’t want to,’ but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> Then the man went to the other and said the same thing. ‘I will, sir,’ he answered, but he didn’t go. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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.

**DISCOVER**

Parables take earthly examples to teach lessons about God’s kingdom. First, always seek to identify what’s what in the story Jesus tells.

What’s the significance of Jesus opening this parable with a question?

What’s the major point of emphasis Jesus is making as it relates to the two sons?

**DEEPEN**

Parables have something to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven

The “deplorables” of society are entering into the kingdom of Christ, why is that?

What was John’s message, do you remember? If so, explain.

**DELIVER**

As we engage the Living Word, there is always an opportunity for us to move forward with an application from the reading.

What does it seem the tax collectors and prostitutes believed from John’s message?

Why do we always begin our services with “confession,” what is this preparing us for in the worship service?

Why does it seem that the most broken lives or those most judged by society are always more receptive to the Gospel?

What makes others less receptive to the Gospel?

What role might the law play in the life of the latter folks we are talking about?

**PRAY**

This is a great time to list some names of people you think are ready to hear the gospel and people who might need the law spoken into their lives. Talk about the folks and the whole group can pray this week for all the names written down.

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