

# THE TRUE GOSPEL

## 100 SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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### **PUBLICANS AND HARLOTS ENTERING THE KINGDOM**

Mat 21:23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

Mat 21:24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

Mat 21:25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

Mat 21:26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

Mat 21:27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

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.

Mat 21:29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

Mat 21:30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I [go], sir: and went not.

Mat 21:31 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.

Mat 21:32 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.

Note: Here Jesus asked the Chief Priests and elders a question that we all need to think about. Was John the Baptist sent from Heaven or was he just a man? Remember, John did no miracles that could be pointed to as evidence that he was a prophet. Nor did he claim he was anyone but a voice crying in the wilderness. Jesus gave the key here as to how to tell whether a man is sent from Heaven or is just another man. He said, "John came unto you in the WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS." To tell whether a man is sent from Heaven or not, examine the WAY the man is teaching. Mat 3:1-12 tells us that John preached the Kingdom of God, that we must repent of sin, that we must bring forth good fruits, and that Jesus Christ was the Messiah. If your minister is sent from Heaven, he will be teaching the 'way of righteousness' also. And if he does, you ought to listen to and believe him.

The Chief Priests and elders are pictured here as the son whom the Father invited into his Kingdom by saying, "Go and work in my vineyard!". Compare this with another parable about

the calling into the Kingdom being like hiring laborers for a vineyard in note # 32. These parables show that to enter the Kingdom actual WORK is required.

\* Jam 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

The first son said he would go work in the vineyard and then didn't go. How did the Chief Priests and elders NOT go? They made a great show of being religious leaders, but when John the Baptist came to them in the way of righteousness telling them that they must actually do things like repent and bring forth good fruit, they did not believe him. They were not interested in actual 'righteousness'. They were interested in getting baptized by John so they could look religious in order to be admired by men.

The other son is pictured by the publicans and harlots who said they would not go into the Kingdom (work in the vineyard). But later they repented and went. How did they GO in? They actually repented of the sins they had committed as harlots and cheating publicans. They changed their way of life. Then God forgave them and allowed them in.

We all should pay attention to what men of God have to say to us. Are they coming to us in the 'way of righteousness' helping us to gain entrance to God's Kingdom by pointing out things we need to do in order to enter it?