

Having a Right Relationship with God

Matthew 21:23-46

Introduction:

- Who would want to live a life where they are deceived?
 1. A person who thinks they are right with God but are not.
 2. A person who is right with God but they are un_____ about their eternal destiny.
- My prayer is that:
 1. If you think you are right with God but aren't, that you will see the truth today and come to Christ.
 2. If you are right with God but are uncertain of your eternal destiny, that you will gain assurance.
 3. If you correctly know that you are not right with God that you will assess what is stopping you from giving your life to Christ and turn away from that and turn to Christ.

Starts with embracing God's t_____ (23-27)

- The religious leaders asked Jesus in front of the c_____ which He was teaching: *By what authority do you do these things?*
 1. They asked this not because they wanted to know, but because they wanted to t_____ Jesus in His own words.
 2. Jesus said He would answer their question if they answered this question: *Was John's baptism from God or men?*
 - a. The religious leaders were not concerned with the right answer, but how Jesus might use their words against them in front of the c_____.
 - b. Since either answer would put them in a bad light, they said, *We don't know.*
 3. Jesus said that since they would not answer His question, He would not answer theirs. They k_____ that Jesus knew that they knew the answer but they were unwilling to EMBRACE the truth.
- All human beings follow some kind of standard
 1. A common standard – g_____ (*God won't condemn me because I am a pretty good person*).
 - a. Who sets the standard of what is good enough?
 - b. If 100 people have different standards of goodness, which standard is the right one and how would we know?

2. God must r_____ what the truth is:
 - a. That truth is revealed in the B_____ (see handout of *How we know that the Bible is the record of God's revelation to us*).
 - b. The Bible tells us that n_____ is good enough to escape the condemnation of God (Rom 3:23; 6:23).

● Having a right relationship with God starts with embracing God's t_____.

Requires genuine r_____ (28-32)

● The parable given

1. A father tells his two sons, *Work in my vineyard t_____*.
2. The first son says no, but later r_____ his defiance and goes and works in the vineyard.
3. The second son says okay, but never goes to the vineyard.

● The parable applied

1. Jesus asked the religious leaders, *Which son did the will of his father?*- They answer correctly, the _____ son.
2. Jesus parallels the second son to the religious leaders
 - a. They were all t_____ but no action.
 - b. They claimed to be workers for God's kingdom but were leading people a_____ from God.
3. Jesus parallels the first son to the tax collectors & prostitutes.
 - a. They r_____ from their defiance to God as a result of John the Baptist's message.
 - b. They were l_____ the way to the kingdom of God for the religious leaders (v. 31)
 - 1) The Greek text is in the present tense (NIV, KJV), not the future tense (NAS, NLT)
 - 2) The meaning of the phrase, "before" or "ahead of" is to lead the way - *the tax collectors and prostitutes are leading the way to the kingdom of God for you.*

● Repentance is changing your l_____ focus from sin to life with God.

1. The tax collectors repented from their g_____ for money.
2. The prostitutes repented of selling their bodies for money.
3. What sin or sins are keeping you from giving your life to Christ?

Results in producing fruit _____ for God (33-46)

●The parable given

1. A landowner plants a vineyard, builds a wall _____ all around it with a tower and a vineyard.
2. The landowner rents _____ the vineyard out to gardeners and goes on a journey.
3. Harvest time comes and the landowner attempts to collect a portion _____ of the harvest (that's the rent that was due).
 - a. He sends three slaves to collect but the gardeners beat _____ one, kill another, and stone a third.
 - b. He sends a larger group of slaves to collect and the gardeners do the same _____ to them.
 - c. He sends His son _____ and they throw him outside the vineyard and kill him.

●The parable applied

1. Jesus asks the religious leaders, *What will the landowner do to the gardeners when he returns from his journey?* – They answer correctly: *He will destroy them and rent the vineyard out to those who will pay the rent.*
2. Jesus parallels the religious leaders to the gardeners
 - a. They will seize and kill God's Son, the Messiah _____ (Ps 118:22,23; Is 28:16).
 - b. God will take all stewardship away from them and give it to people who produce fruit _____ that comes from God's kingdom (the religious leaders were supposed to lead people to God).

●Having a right relationship with God is only through Jesus and will become evident over time _____.

1. Jesus said, *By this is my Father glorified that you bear much fruit and so please _____ to be My disciples* (Jn 15:8 – NAS)
2. Gal 5:23,24 lists the fruit that believers produce – *love _____ (for God and others), joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness self-control.*

Conclusion – see my prayer in the introduction