

## Sermon Notes – July 20, 2014

### “What Do You Think?”

#### Matthew 21:28-32

#### Pastor Bill Hoffman

Context. What do Jesus' actions in Matthew 21:1-22 say or imply about who he is, and about the answer to the religious leaders' question about his authority in verse 23?

- Verses 23-27 are the setting for the three stories Jesus tells in Matthew 21:28 - 22:14. To and about whom is Jesus speaking, and who else is listening?
- How do the other two parables Jesus tells here (Matthew 21:33 - 22:14) inform your understanding of the parable of the two sons?

Verses 21:28-32. Who are represented by the father and by each son?

- What is praiseworthy about each son, and what is problematic?
- Jesus' words in verse 31 that “the tax collectors and prostitutes entering the kingdom of God ahead of you” would have shocked and angered the religious leaders. On what basis does Jesus make this statement? (verse 32)
- With which son do you more identify?
- Jesus indicts the religious leaders for not repenting and believing John the Baptist. What does it mean for people today to repent and believe?

The good news. If we focus only on the two sons, this story could seem mainly about obedience and good works. Consider a third Son, the One telling the story:

- What did the tax collectors and prostitutes (represented by the first son) see about Jesus which the religious leaders (represented by the second son) failed to see?
- How is Jesus the Son good news for those who identify more with the first son? With the second?