

Series: The King and the Kingdom
Title: Kingdom Conflict - Part 2
Date: March 10/11, 2018
Speaker: Phil Vaughan

Big Idea: As Jesus nears the end of his life, his conflict with Israel's leaders heats up to a boiling point. In a very public confrontation, Jesus explains that the ones entering God's kingdom are those who have repented. Phil taught that this message still holds true for us today. The only thing standing between you and new life is your willingness to repent.

Passage: Matthew 21:23-32

Discuss It:

1. In his message this past weekend, Phil mentioned several approaches people often take toward conflict. Which one best describes your usual "conflict style," and why? Do you think your best friend would agree with the answer you chose?
 - I avoid conflict
 - I don't seek conflict, but it always seems to find me
 - I seek out conflict
 - I create conflict
 - I always seem to have to referee other people's conflict
 - Other?
2. **Read Matthew 21:23-27.** Jesus' opponents are *afraid* of what this argument might mean for their reputation. While it's easy to look down on them as a reader, the truth is that we're all afraid of what it might mean if Jesus is really Lord. Think through the parts of your life that you struggle to surrender to God (perhaps a relationship, your finances, something about your career or your future, etc.). What are you afraid of? What might it cost you to surrender more completely?
3. **Read Matthew 21:28-32.** As a child, how much did your parents have to "encourage" (ask/yell/threaten) you to work? Share an example or two.
4. What is the significance of Jesus' statement that the "tax collectors and prostitutes" were on the right side of God's kingdom, while the religious "insiders" weren't? What do you think is the relevance of this statement for today?
5. Where have you said "yes" to God but not followed through? How might you begin to put your "yes" into action today?
6. In verse 29, when Jesus says that the first son "changed his mind," this literally means that he repented. That is, he sincerely changed his heart and mind, and decided to take a different course of action. This past weekend Phil described the popular "4-step apology" to help us think through how we might practice repentance...

- I'm sorry for _____
- This was wrong because _____
- In the future I will _____
- Will you forgive me?

What's effective about wording an apology in this way? Have you ever sincerely apologized this way (or similarly)? Or received an apology like this one? Will you commit to spend some time in prayerful repentance this week, and invite God to redirect your life in whatever way he reveals to you?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?