



Getting to Know You...

When it comes to CONFLICT, I would describe my typical response as.... [choose best answer]



- a. Avoidance
- b. Accommodation
- c. try to Bargain
- d. Unafraid, stand my ground
- e. find Consensus middle ground

Opening Prayer:

O Lord My God, Teach us your righteous ways, that we may walk in your truth. Walk with us, that we may not lose our way. And show us The Way everlasting. Amen.

Digging In: READ Matthew 21:28-32.

- Browse through Matt 21:1-27. Compare with Mark 11. Determine on which day of the wk Jesus told parable of 2 sons. And can you determine to whom this parable was addressed?
- Take Note of the tense confrontational defensive tones of the interchange between Jesus and his opponents in Matt 21:14-16, and 21:23-27. What do you think Jesus is attempting to do as he restarts the conversation in v28 with a simple and objective story about two sons... and invites his listeners to evaluate?



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- *v28 “Son...”* The father in this parable addresses his son(s) using the Greek familial word ‘tekna’, which translates “child, or son, or descendant” How is that significant to this parable?
- *v31-32 “tax collectors and prostitutes”*
*Note: Matthew, the writer of this book, was a former tax collector (Matt 9:9-13). List some of the feelings he likely would have felt when Jesus used this phrase in his parable...
- Trivia: In the book of Matthew, Jesus mentions “the kingdom of God/Heaven” 48 times!
- The 2nd Scripture lesson from Sunday was Philippians 2:1– 11. Read through these verses again... Which phrases highlight Jesus as the perfect (3rd) son?

Application:

- If the primary teachers and preachers of the Jewish people were misinformed, corrupted, and in grave danger of being condemned... what did that say about the rest of the nation? Do you see any parallels in our current American society?
- Comment on the following:
The parable of the two sons warns all of us who are serious about spiritual things to beware, lest our energies be exerted almost entirely in striving for doctrinal correctness, and we regard the life of obedience as of little consequence.

Closing Prayer Suggestion: Use Hymn 469 (Christian Worship) or search for the song “Nobody” by Casting Crowns.

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