

MORE DISCIPLESHIP PARABLES

Last week, we saw how Jesus used **PARABLES** to show what it means to follow him, the risks/costs associated with being his Disciple. In most cases, they were directed either at his current Disciples, or at overly eager crowds who want to join him.

YES/NO BROTHERS...our next parable is found in his last week. Jesus has purged the Temple and cursed a fig tree for **NOT BEARING FRUIT** though it wasn't **FRUIT-BEARING SEASON**. Jewish leaders corner him, question his **CREDENTIALS**, asking by **WHAT AUTHORITY** he justified his recent actions. He perceived their motives: they didn't want his credentials; they were gathering evidence. He turned their question into another question:

I WILL IF YOU CAN TELL ME: WAS JOHN'S BAPTISM FROM HEAVEN OR EARTH?

By their antics, they **Inadvertently set the stage** for one of his parables.

TWO BROTHERS ARE TOLD BY THEIR FATHER TO GO TO WORK. ONE SAYS, "YES" BUT NEVER GOES; OTHER SAYS "NO" BUT LATER CHANGES HIS MIND AND GOES. WHICH ONE, JESUS ASKS, DID THE WILL OF HIS FATHER.

A 3rd-grader could answer it. The **NO BROTHER**, the one who really went to work. That was their answer. It would be ours. The issue wasn't **WHAT THE BROTHERS SAID**, but what **THEY DID**. Some people are **ALL TALK/NO WALK**. Jesus did what he rarely does: he stick his story in his critics' faces by telling them **WHICH BROTHER THEY WERE**. Which brother are we? A good way to answer that: **WHAT MOVES MORE- YOUR MOUTH OR YOUR FEET**

THE GOOD SAMARITAN...the Good Samaritan reads like an Aesop's Fable, has a moral attached: be **KIND**. Read that way, we feel guilty when we pass by beggars, or ignore the needy. This story isn't **1-time heroism**. God is directing us from being **self-centered** to **Christ-centered**, taking us from **small life** to **significant life**. This story is prompted by what seems to be a **perfectly good question**. A man merely asks:

What must I do to inherit eternal life?

His question wasn't **Innocent**. Pharisees had sent their henchman to trap Jesus in his words, discredit him. Jesus asks him how he read the law. He wants **someone else's answer**; Jesus wants him to **discover his own answer**. Scribe knew the right answer about God's law; he didn't live it out. Quoting what God expected, as he did, but falling to do it exposed his true colors. The man was looking for loopholes. What he gets instead is a **STORY**: the Parable of Good Samaritan.

Where do you find yourself in the story? Jesus highlights the Samaritan's action. It isn't about WHO DID/DIDN'T STOP, but about HOW MUCH HE CARED. Yes, ACTIONS speak LOUDER THAN WORDS.