

## **Two Sons**

Matthew 21:18-32

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Jesus was on his way from Bethany to Jerusalem. He was hungry and saw a fig tree beside the road. He went over to see if there were any figs, but there were only leaves. Jesus said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" Immediately the tree withered.

The disciples were amazed, but Jesus said, "If you have faith and do not doubt, whatever you ask for in prayer, you will receive."

Jesus was teaching in the Temple. The religious leaders questioned him. "Who gave you the authority to do what you're doing?"

Jesus replied, "Answer my question and I'll answer yours. John's baptism – did it come from heaven or was it purely human?"

They talked it over, "If we say it was from heaven, he'll ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But we don't dare say it was purely human." They were afraid of the people, who were convinced John was a prophet. So they replied, "We don't know where it came from."

"In that case," said Jesus, "I'm not going to tell you by what authority I do the things that I do. Now listen up. There was a man with two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Go work in the vineyard today.' The son answered, 'No. I won't.' But later he changed his mind and went. The man asked his other son to work in the vineyard. He answered, 'Yes. I will.' But he didn't go. Which of these two did what his father wanted?"

"The first one."

"Yes. Now listen up. John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn't believe him. So tax collectors and prostitutes, who did believe, are entering the Kingdom of God ahead of you. Even so, you refuse to change your minds and believe."