

The Kingdom of God is at Hand - Repent and Believe

Mar 1:14-15 ESV Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the **gospel** of God, 15 and saying, "**The time is fulfilled**, and the **kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**"

- Kingdom at hand [**a new regime is here**] THEREFORE Change your **thinking - direction**

Act 17:30-31 ESV The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **he commands all people everywhere to repent**, 31 **because** he has fixed a day on which **he will judge the world** in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

- The call to repent & believe is an act of mercy & grace
- There is a new regime, and **you are all guilty of rebellion against it**, but Jesus came
- And offers PEACE --- BEFORE he returns to judge [**he did it by dying for our rebellion**]
- 2Th 1:9 ...**inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction**

Mat 21:23-32 ESV And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "**By what authority are you doing these things**, and who gave you this authority?"

- **Why do people question the authority of another? - Who do you think you are?**

24 Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 **The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?**" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "**If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'**" 26 But if we say, '**From man,**' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

- **They gave a political answer - they would not commit - (fear of commitment)**

The Story - repentance is linked to the will of the father (a response to authority)

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 And he answered, 'I will not,' but **afterward he changed his mind and went.** 30 And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, '**I go, sir,**' but did not go. 31 **Which of the two did the will of his father?**" They said, "The first."

The moral of the story (the repentance of others should move us to do the same)

Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the **tax collectors** and the **prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.** 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And **even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.**

Repentance is the constant turning to the will of the Father

- Repentance is the first step to be **initiated into the kingdom** of God -
- It is also **an ongoing surrender** to Christ as we grow and learn more of His ways
- Our burden and ability to repent is based on our **receiving of Christ's authority**
- The first son is like the tax collectors and prostitutes (and us)
- The second son is like the religious leaders - words but no works