

Sermon Study Guide – October 1st, 2023

"A Story of Spiritual Sincerity"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ How do you feel when people aren't sincere? How much can you trust insincere people versus how much will you just go to other people for help instead?
- ◆ Are you sincere in the practice of your faith? What does that look like, and why is spiritual sincerity important?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 21:23-32 (see *bulletin for full text*)

²⁸ *"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'*
²⁹ *"I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.* ³⁰ *"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.* ³¹ *"Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.* ³² *For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.*

3) What does God want you to hear today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



How does today's sermon change how you want to live your life?

Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...

1. What is this Parable's setting? Whom does Jesus address and why?

2. What is Jesus trying to tell his audience with the story of two sons?

3. Give some examples of "spiritual insincerity":

4. How does Jesus differ from either son in the Parable?

5. Why is "spiritual sincerity" a better way to live? (*Milli Vanilli anyone?*)

6. How can we demonstrate such sincerity to...
 - ⇒ ... those outside our church?

 - ⇒ ... those inside our church?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Philippians 2:1-11, Psalm 40

Thursday: Colossians 3:1-17

Tuesday: *read/review* Ezekiel 18

Friday: Matthew 23

Wednesday: 1 John 3

Saturday: *review* Matt. 21:23-32