

## Matthew 21:28-32

*"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him."*

How many people do you know say that they are a Christian, but by seeing their lifestyle you kind of wonder if they really are?

Here in today's devotional verses, Jesus is talking to the chief priests and elders. Who, if you listen to them sound like they are righteous, good people, but their actions don't really match their words, kind of like the second son: *He came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go.*

But anyone can say that they are a Christian, just like any one can say that they are a doctor, even though they are not, simply stating something does not make it true.

Remember when John the Baptist was in prison and he wanted to know if Jesus was the Messiah or not? John sent his disciples to ask Jesus and what was Jesus' response?

† *Luke 7:20-23 When the men had come to Him, they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' ' And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*

Jesus could had said, Yeah, I'm the guy. But they could have asked anyone the same question and they all could have said the same thing. But instead, Jesus proved that He was the Messiah and instead of telling John's disciples yes, Jesus said: *Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard.*

Why, because John knew the scriptures and knew this was testimony that Jesus was the Messiah.

But still, we see those who say that they are Christians, yet they go out and party, they sleep around, never go to church and can only quote John 3:16, and that's because they saw it at a football game.

Hey man, judge not so that you won't be judged. Really, someone is living a sinful lifestyle and claiming to be a Christian and that's what you come up with?  
What about what James says?

† **James 5:19-20** *Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

Simply if someone claims to be a Christian, then we as their brothers and sisters in the Lord should confront them about their sinful lifestyle that they are living. Or as James just said, ***he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.***

That's not judgement, but rather love for your brother or sister in the Lord who has fallen into a sinful lifestyle and you want to warn or help them because you know that their lifestyle is not good at all.