**Prostitutes Go Into God’s Kingdom Before You**

**Sermon Based Discussion (April 16, 2017)**

**Resurrection Sunday 2017**

**WARM UP**

1. Which statement most describes you?
   * Someone who usually listens to authority
   * Someone who usually does not listen to authority
   * Someone who appears to listen to authority but actually doesn’t

*We all have tendencies when it comes to responding to those in authority over us. Some may think it’s because some people are just more compliant while others are more defiant. While this may explain partly, a deeper consideration may reveal there is more going on our souls regarding how we view authority—especially how we view the idea of a God who has supreme authority over us.*

*In this session, we will see some how our response to Jesus as God’s messenger and Son will influence our lives in more ways than we might expect.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Matthew 21:28-39)**

1. What main point(s) did Jesus want to make by sharing these parables with his audiences?
2. How did the people in Jesus’ day view these various groups of people: priests & religious leaders; tax collectors & prostitutes? And why would that understanding help us understand Jesus’ words in verses 31-32?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. What does it mean to “change one’s mind” (see verse 29 and 32) and believe in Jesus?
2. How would someone’s life change if she began to really believe she owed everything to Jesus?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. Which of the two siblings in the first parable do you most relate to and why?
2. What part(s) of your lives are/would be the hardest to give complete ownership over to Jesus, as illustrated by the parable of the tenants?

**APPLICATION**

1. In light of Jesus dying and rising from the dead to save us from our sins, what is a practical way this passage would challenge or encourage you?