

MASTERCLASS #3
Lights, Camera, Action!*Word***Scripture Reference**

Matthew 21:23-32

Discussion Questions

1. Did anyone ever question your authority over something that you were responsible for? How did you respond?
2. When the director of a movie says, “Lights, camera, action!” the actors should be ready to take action according to the script. The word ‘action’ is a call to move, to do something you’re supposed to do. As a Christian, you are like an actor playing the character of a Christ-follower on a world stage, ready to play your part anytime that the Director of your life calls “Action!” Read Matthew 21:23-32. Jesus explains the importance of your actions through this parable. Jewish leaders during Jesus’ time in Jerusalem opposed His ministry. Jesus authenticated His claims by performing miracles, but He did not do this all the time because He knew that even if He did, the Jewish leaders would not believe anyway. In this passage, how was Jesus’ authority questioned (v. 23-27)? How did Jesus deal with their accusation? How did the chief priests and elders finally respond to Jesus (v. 27)? What answer did Jesus give to them?
3. In the Parable of the Two Sons, both sons were asked by their father to help in the vineyard. Discuss how the two sons responded. Which of the them did the will of his father? Likewise, whom did Jesus say would be in heaven? Why would these leaders not be in heaven (v. 32)? Why can religious knowledge not guarantee a godly life? What should you do in order to have eternal security?

4. This passage shows us the dichotomy (contrast) between words and actions, from which learn three life principles:
 - a. **Words matter, but actions are more important.** What you say is important, but unless it is followed up by tangible action, your words are useless and empty. Discuss how true is it that actions speak louder than words. Share how you feel when someone promises you something but he or she doesn’t deliver. What are the spiritual things you have promised the Lord but have a hard time fulfilling? How can you amend it?
 - b. **Present actions are more important than past actions.** One of the sons described in the parable refused to do what his father asked him to do, but he actually went ahead and did it. His present action doing was more significant than his past action of refusing. Similarly, your past wrongdoings can be corrected by asking God today to forgive you of your sins and then starting to live in righteousness. This is the hope of the Christian life: that we can have new life in Jesus Christ. Do you know someone who thinks his or her life is hopeless because of his/her past failures? Share how God has transformed that person’s life (or discuss how you can let that person know about the life transformation that is possible in Christ). On the same note, the laurels and accomplishments you achieved in past may be important, but what you are doing in the present is even more so. What are you doing right now to contribute to the work of the Lord?
 - c. **Responding to truth in action is of great importance.** Jesus told the Jewish religious leaders that unlike the tax collectors and prostitutes who were exposed to the same truth as they were, these sinners believed the truth, which is why they were going to heaven. The religious leaders did not believe, and so Jesus said they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Do you believe that God is sovereign, in control, and omnipotent? Do you act on that truth by trusting Him instead of worrying? How are many Christians similar to the religious leaders in this parable—knowing the truth yet not letting this truth affect their lives or move them to action? How do you respond to Truth?

Walk

*“Jesus, my Lord will love me forever,
From Him no pow’r of evil can sever,
He gave His life to ransom my soul; Now I belong to Him;
Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me,
Not for the years of time alone, But for eternity.”*

When we belong to Jesus, we should respond to truth in tangible action. The knowledge of truth changes the way we live our life. It should spur us to action. When the Director of your life shouts “Action!” are you ready to respond by actively living for Him? Look at your life; are you similar to the first son or the second son in the parable? How does your life speak of the truth that you indeed belong to Jesus?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for opening my mind that I should not only believe in truth, but the truth should spur me to actions that speak louder than words about your sovereignty and goodness in my life as Your child. Help me not to live in my past accomplishments or failures, but to continue to pursue excellence for your glory. May it be my daily commitment to live my life to give glory to Your Name. In Jesus’ name. Amen.