

- **Say, Obey, Give It Away - Part 2**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday November 18, 2018

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- **Read the Passage: Matthew 21:23-46**

- ▼ **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**

- Realize what the story is and the claim it makes.
- Realize the claim that the story is making and agree with it.
- Don't just agree with the revelation - obey it.
- Build God's Kingdom - not yours.

- ▼ **Realize what the story is and the claim it makes.**

- ▼ The Bible is like a 5-part mini-series:

- Episode 1 - Creation
- Episode 2 - Rebellion
- Episode 3 - Israel
- Episode 4 - Jesus
- Episode 5 - The Church
- John the Baptist's message heralded the transition from Episode 3 to Episode 4.
- John's message comes in the context of a long-awaited king.
- John's message announces Jesus as that long-awaited king.
- Jesus understood the historical chain that linked him to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ran through John - last of the Old Testament prophets.

- ▼ **Realize the claim that the story is making and agree with it.**

- Notice that Jesus responds to a question with a question. This is a useful tactic that forces people to think an issue through rather than dismissing it outright or treating it lightly.
- When something claims to be a revelation from God, take a stand!
- The Pharisees refused to take a stand on John's message and were therefore unable to receive Jesus properly.

- God's revelation demands a response.

▼ **Don't just agree with the revelation - obey it.**

- Saying it and doing it are two different things.
- God isn't fooled by phonies - you shouldn't be either.
- God's children sometimes "freak out" over phonies, but God doesn't. - Matthew 13:24-30
- A genuine relationship with an authentic believer will overcome the negative impact of phonies.
- Awareness of phonies can make you a humbler and more authentic witness.

▼ **Build God's Kingdom - not yours.**

- It's God's vineyard and the harvest belongs to him.
- God did not allow the Pharisees to prevent the arrival of his Kingdom.
- God has given the Kingdom to those who will produce it's fruit - keep producing the fruit and keep giving it to him! - Luke 12:22 - 34

▼ **Discussion questions:**

- Practice explaining to each other the big picture story arc that leads through John the Baptist to Jesus and where it ends.
- Consider Matthew 21:23-27: What are you doing that would cause modern Pharisees to question your authority? What modern question could you ask them in return?
- Consider Matthew 21:28-32: Are there ways in which you have been like he first son? Are there ways in which you have been like the second? Discuss.
- Consider Matthew 21:33-46: Which characters in the parable can you most and least relate to? Discuss.