

Sermon Reflections

Semper Reformanda – Always Reforming (Matthew 21:23-32)

Summary: The true Christian has never arrived. We are always repenting, reforming ourselves by Christ's Word. Don't harden your heart to Christ's authoritative Word.

Signs You Need a Reformation

1. You Think You Are the Authority (vv. 23-27)

- The chief priests approached and accused Jesus as if He had no authority. However, we learn from the end of Matthew (28:18-20) that "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to [Jesus]." Are there any areas of your life in which you usurp Christ's authority? Which areas are the hardest to relinquish control?
- Consider your family life, work life, relationships, and thought life. Do you submit each of these areas to the authority of Christ and His word? When is the last time you changed your ways based on being convicted by the Word? Pray that God will reveal the areas in your life in which you are trying to hold onto control.
- The Protestant Reformation showed that entire churches and denominations can lead the masses astray. Can you think of any modern churches or preachers who undermine the authority of Christ and His Word through their teaching? How can you ensure *you* are not led astray?

2. You Think You Don't Need to Change (vv. 28-32)

- Sometimes the parables of Jesus can be difficult to understand and it's clear not everyone was meant to understand the immediate meaning. This is not one of those parables. Why does Jesus use a short, clear parable to convey His point to the religious leaders? Did the chief priests know they were about to indict themselves when they quickly answered Jesus' question? When is the last time you felt convicted by the Word of Christ?
- Through this parable, Jesus explains the importance of repentance in responding to the gospel. The gospel teaches us that everyone from the religious to the greatest of sinners must repent. What is the greatest impediment to repentance for the religious? What keeps the non-religious from repenting?
- Before God, we are all great sinners in need of a savior. How can you encourage your fellow believers in their battles with sin? How can you foster a community of reformation and repentance?
- Have you repented from your sin and believed the gospel? Do you assess your life and your sin and daily repent? Are there any areas of your life in which you excuse your sin?