**Reflections-10-01-17**

Authority, Power, Repentance

*“Who do you give authority?”*

Matthew 21:23-32

1. Jesus comes into Jerusalem like a house of fire on Palm Sunday. He is riding a donkey. Palm branches and clothing are placed before him. He is declared a king. He later chases off the money changers in the temple. The day after while teaching, he is confronted by the chief priests and the elders about his authority and who gave him authority. What do you think these church officials were attempting to do?
2. One scholar claims that 99% of the time, those who have authority over us have it only because we give it to them. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. Do you are agree with the statement, “If you are still angry, hurt, disappointed or upset, it’s because you have decided to give authority to the person who upset you?”
4. Jesus tells a parable about two sons. The father asks each son to go out into the vineyard to work. The first son said “no” but changed his mind and went to work. The second son said “yes” but never followed through. Who did the will of the father? The one who changed his mind. Is it easy for you to change your mind? What stops you from changing your mindset?
5. Pastor Glen used a story of an angry niece that helped him change his mind. Do you think God uses people, even in their anger to change minds and assist in doing God’s will?

**Matthew 21:23-32**

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ 24Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” 26But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ 27So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” 29He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.