

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 21:23-32

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A, RCL

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the leaders 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** [ὑπάγε, **hýpage**] and **work** [ἐργάζου, **ergázou**] 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.” [NRSV89]

21:28

ὑπάγε, **hýpage**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers sg from ὑπάγω*

translations: **go** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **ve** [IAdNT]

ἐργάζου, **ergázou**; *vb: pres mid / pass imperative 2nd pers sg from ἐργάζομαι*

translations: **work** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **trabaja** [IAdNT]

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Gene Crossett, Jr.
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