

### Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Ezekiel** chapter **18** verses **25-32**, which can be found on page **1024** in the **old testament** of your pew bible.*

<sup>25</sup>You say that the Lord acts without principle? Listen, you Israelites, it is you who act without principle, not I. If a righteous man turns from his righteousness, takes to evil ways and dies, it is because of these evil ways that he dies. Again, if a wicked man turns from his wicked ways and does what is just and right, he will save his life. If he sees his offences as they are and turns his back on them all, then he shall live, he shall not die.

‘The Lord acts without principle’, say the Israelites. No, Israelites, it is you who act without principle, not I. Therefore, Israelites, says the Lord God, I will judge every man of you on his deeds. Turn, turn from your offences, or your iniquity will be your downfall. Throw off the load of your past misdeeds; get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, you men of Israel? I have no desire for any man’s death. This is the very word of the Lord God.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Matthew** chapter **21** verses **23-32**, which can be found on page **30** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

<sup>7</sup>He entered the temple, and the chief priests and elders of the nation came to him with the question: ‘By what authority are you acting like this? Who gave you this authority?’ Jesus replied, ‘I have a question to ask you too; answer it, and I will tell you by what authority I act. The baptism of John: was it from God, or from men? This set them arguing among themselves: ‘If we say, “from God” he will say, “Then why did you

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Heather Pirie

not believe him?" But if we say, "from men", we are afraid of the people, for they all take John for a prophet.' So they answered, 'We do not know.' And Jesus said: "Then neither will I tell you by what authority I act.

'But what do you think about this? A man had two sons. He went to the first, and said, "My boy, go and work today in the vineyard." "I will, sir", the boy replied; but he never went. The father came to the second and said the same. "I will not", he replied, but afterwards he changed his mind and went. Which of these two did as his father wished?' 'The second', they said. Then Jesus answered, 'I tell you this: tax-gatherers and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For when John came to show you the right way to live, you did not believe him, but the tax-gatherers and prostitutes did; and even when you had seen that, you did not change your minds and believe him.

*May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.*