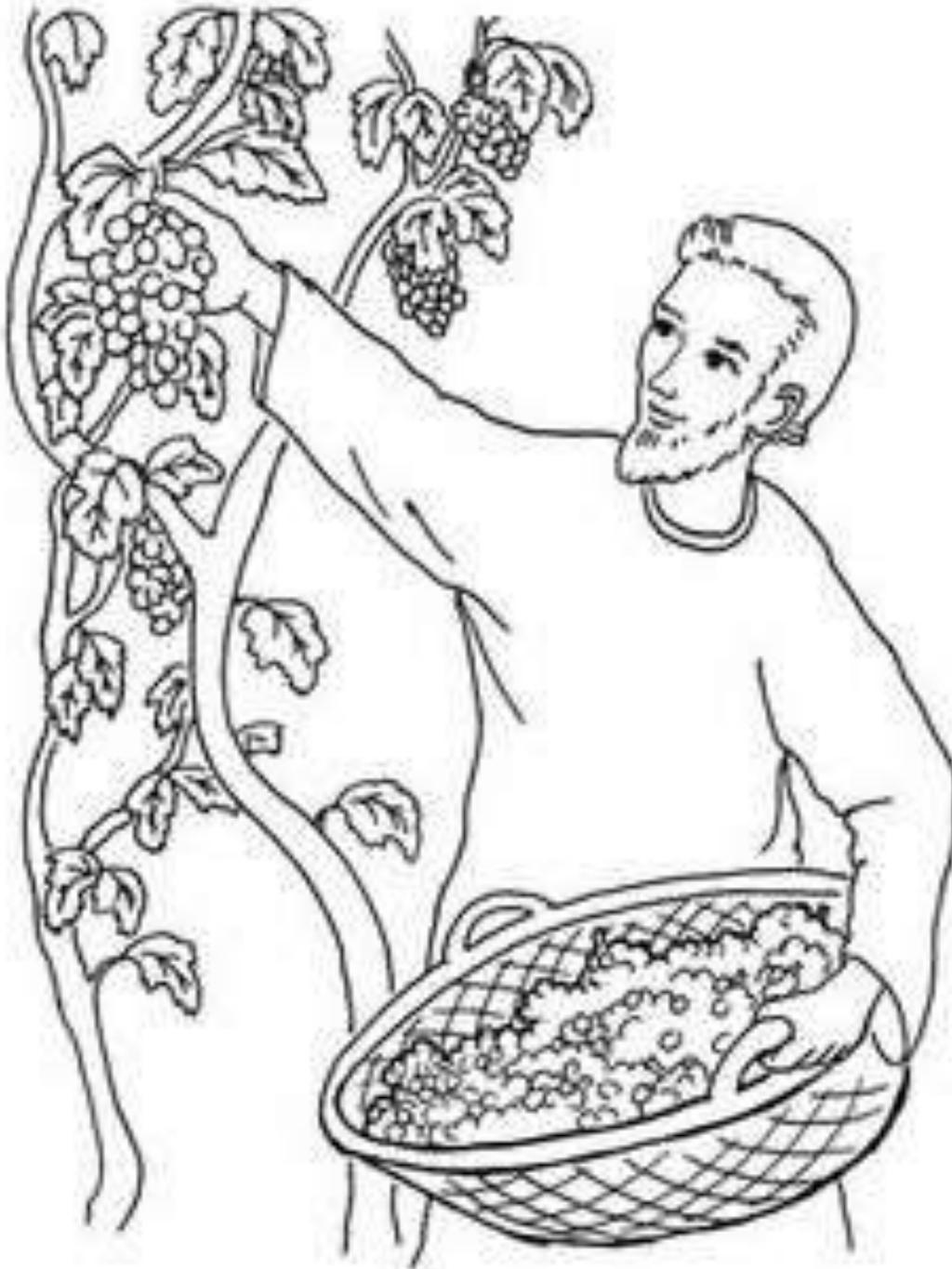


St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
OCTOBER 1, 2017—THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (PROPER 21)
AUTHORITY TO DO STUFF OR ACTUALLY DOING STUFF--
WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT?



Some important leaders—people with authority—asked Jesus where HE got HIS authority to heal people and do other miraculous things. These leaders really didn't understand Jesus, and were asking the wrong question. So, Jesus turned the question around on them. He told a story about two brothers. The father said to the two brothers "It's time to get to work." The first brother said "OK Dad! I'm up and ready, and I'm going now!" But the first brother didn't move. He didn't get up, he didn't do anything." The second brother said "Nope, I can't be bothered. I'm not going to get up and help you. But then, a little bit later, the

second brother got up and went and helped his father." Jesus asked, which brother really did what the Father wanted? They knew the answer; they said "The second brother." That's right! He used his actions to show his love.

Based on Matthew 21:23-32

THE GOSPEL AND REAL LIFE

AUTHORITY AND ACTION WORD SEARCH

H E L P E R O W B L
H C W L M Y T L Y V
R E H C A E T O T I
V K R O W O N V I N
Z G G W H L O E R E
A E O N L R I W O Y
G U T S U M T W H A
O X O L P W C J T R
B M E D U E A D U D
Y S Z U G S L L A J

RULES, TEACHER, LAW, HELPER,
GOSPEL, WORK, VINEYARD,
ACTION, LOVE, AUTHORITY

WHAT DO WE DO AND WHY DO WE DO IT?

The leaders in this Gospel story were concerned about AUTHORITY.

Who has authority in your life? Parents, adult family members, teachers, police, crossing guards...I'm sure you can name many people who can tell you what to do. They have authority, in one way or another. Think about that. Some people take authority for their own gain; some people realize that true authority is based in love-God's Love. What authority in your life helps you to be a better person?

We also learn in this story that it is our ACTIONS that are important. Do we actually do what is right? We should listen to God, and listen to other people who help us to understand what is important and then ACT on it.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

As parents, you've lived it. Been there, done that! "Kids and authority" is a changing, tricky, uneasy balance. As infants authority doesn't mean anything. But even as small children they start to question and push against authority, and by the teen years, watch out! As difficult as it can be, it is a normal part of growing and maturing. Talk with your kids about authority. Who or what has authority over you? Why? How does your authority as a parent center around creating a safe, healthy, and loving environment for your family? God's authority is based in love. God's love for all of us. How is that like your authority in your family?

Dinner Table Conversations:

Who has authority in your life? (or Who can make you do things?)

From where or who does this authority come? (or Why can they tell you what to do?)

How is some authority based in love? Think about God's authority and your parents authority. How does this kind of authority try to make life good for you?