

THE TWO SONS

◆ INTRODUCTION ◆

Jesus wants us to be doers of his word and not hearers only. When we hear his word, it should change our lives. Jesus spoke to the Jewish religious leaders of his time about this. He said they had not truly repented or said they were sorry for their sins. However, other people that we might not expect, did do this. These people asked God for forgiveness. They are the ones Jesus said would enter the Kingdom of God first. In this reading, Jesus is talking to the Jewish religious leaders about this.

◆ BIBLE READING: Matthew 21:28-32 ◆

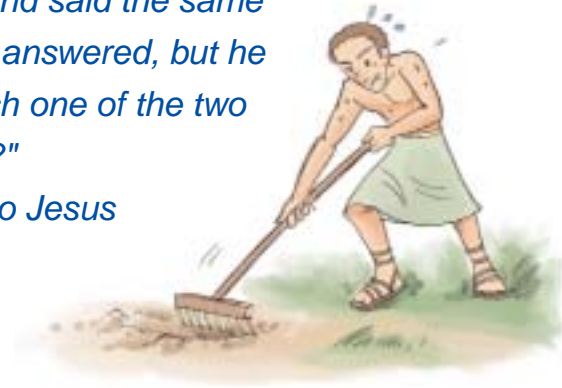


28 "Now, what do you think? There was once a man who had two sons. He went to the older one and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' **29** "I don't want to,' he answered, but later he changed his mind



and went. **30** Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. "Yes, sir," he answered, but he did not go. **31** Which one of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The older one," they answered. So Jesus said to them, "I tell you: the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you. **32** For John the Baptist came to you showing you the right path to take, and you would not believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. Even when you saw this, you did not later change your minds and believe him.



◆ VOCABULARY ◆

- religious (adj) – following a group that believes in a god or set of gods and activities such as prayer and worship
- (to) repent (v) – to show or say you are sorry for something you did wrong
- vineyard (n) – area of land where grapes are grown to produce wine
- (to) change someone's mind (v phr) – to make one feel different about something than what they did before
- tax collector (n) – a person who takes money from people to be given to the government
- prostitute (n) – a person, usually a woman, who has sex with men in exchange for money
- right path (idiom) – the correct way or choice ("path" literally means a very small road for walking or foot-travel)
- (to) deceive (v) – to make self or others believe something that is not true
- practice (n) – something that people do regularly

◆ QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE READING ◆

1. What did the older son do?

2. What did the younger son do?

3. Which one was the father happy with? Why?

4. Which son would Jesus compare the tax collectors to? Why?

5. Which son would Jesus compare the religious leaders to? Why?

◆ **KEY VERSE: JAMES 1:22** ◆

“Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice.”

◆ **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS** ◆

1. How do we deceive ourselves, or others?

2. What does it mean, “to put something into practice”?

3. How can you put “his word” into practice?

◆ **APPLYING THE VOCABULARY TO YOUR LIFE** ◆

Answer the questions using the **bolded** vocabulary words.

Example: Who used **parables** to teach people?

Answer: Jesus used **parables** to teach people.

1. What is something that you need to put into **practice**?

2. Is there anything you need to **repent** of?

3. Have you ever **changed** your **mind** about something?

What caused you to change it?

4. Is it possible to be **religious**, but not really be faithful to God?

5. How can you know you're on the **right path**?

◆ CONCLUSION ◆

Jesus shows that we need to do more than just talk about our faith. He wants us to live it. When we realize we have sinned against God, we should repent and decide to change. Jesus said tax collectors and prostitutes had developed this right attitude. However, the religious leaders had not. God wants us to have a new and changed life.

In this new life, we try to do things that please God. For example, we can share His love with other people. But we need to do this without trying to get attention for ourselves like the religious leaders did in Jesus' day. God sees what we do, even when others don't. What are some good things you can do for God and others without bringing attention to yourself?

FOR FURTHER STUDY, SEE LUKE 3: 8-12; 7: 29, 30

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