

# A Parable of Two Sons — No. 1

Matt. 21:28-32

## Introduction:

- A. First of two great parables about a man with two sons. (Cf. Luke 15:11).
  - 1. Both aimed at self-righteous Jews.
  - 2. Both important lessons for Christians.
- B. This parable contrasts Jews with publicans and harlots. (vv. 31-32)
  - 1. Many Jews had said, “I go”, but went not.
  - 2. Many publicans and harlots had repented and gone.
- C. This parable teaches four great principles about life in the kingdom of God:

## Discussion:

### I. There Is Work to Be Done —“*Son, go, work today.*”

- A. God expects his children to work. (1 Cor. 15:58).
  - 1. There is worshiping to be done. (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42).
  - 2. There is teaching and preaching to be done. (Acts 8:4; Acts 20:20; 2 Tim. 2:2).
  - 3. There is other service to be rendered. (Jas. 1:27; Matt. 25:41-43).
- B. God expects his children to work *today*. (cf. John 9:4; Heb. 3:13).

### II. There Is a Proper Place to Work —“*in my vineyard.*”

- A. Cannot do the Lord's work in another person's vineyard. (Matt. 15:9,13,14; 7:21-23).
  - 1. Catholicism.
  - 2. Protestant denominationalism.
  - 3. Secret religious orders.
- B. Cannot do the Lord's work by tampering with the His vineyard. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16,17).
  - 1. Some try to fence in additional acreage (areas for work).
    - a. Additional institutions and arrangements.
    - b. Additional activities: social, recreational, etc.
  - 2. Some try to modify existing areas of work to fit modern concepts.
    - a. Pervert various items of worship.
    - b. Solos and Choral singing in worship. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

### III. There Is a Commitment to Be Honored —“*I go, sir, but went not.*”

- A. It is not enough to promise to serve. (Jas. 1:22-25).
- B. It is not enough to just take the first steps. (Heb. 5:12-6:1).
  - 1. Becoming a Christian is the beginning, not the completion of our obedience.
  - 2. Becoming a Christian puts us into a position live a life of obedience. (Eph. 2:10).

### IV. There Is Opportunity for Repentance.—“*he repented and went*” (KJV)

- A. A sinner does not have to remain a sinner. (Cf. 2 Pet. 3:9)
- B. A sinner outside the vineyard can repent and be baptized into the vineyard. (Acts 2:38,41).
- C. A sinner inside the vineyard can repent and be forgiven. (Acts 8:22).
- D. A penitent cannot repent and *stay*.

## Conclusion:

- A. Let each realize that he has work to do.
- B. Let each realize that he has a proper place to work.
- C. Let each realize that he must fulfill his commitment to God.
- D. Let each realize that he can repent and turn to God.