

18. What is the message of this parable to us today?

**Reflection Questions:** Where am I in this parable? Why? Am I doing the will of my Father? How? In what areas of life am I living as a hypocrite? What am I going to do about it? When was the last time I repented?

How can we pray for one another this week?

### Quotes to Ponder

*Let it be a settled principle in our Christianity, that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is infinitely willing to receive penitent sinners—it matters nothing what a man has been in time past.*

J.C. Ryle

*When unbelief investigates spiritual truth, it is predisposed to reject it. Every false religion has the common denominator of works righteousness, of salvation by human achievement, and is by nature offended by and opposed to the gospel of divine accomplishment by God in Christ.*

John MacArthur

*Our Father has a multitude of talkative sons, but the laborers are few.*

James Smith

*Salvation apart from obedience is unknown in the sacred Scriptures... Apart from obedience there can be no salvation, for salvation without obedience is a self-contradictory impossibility.*

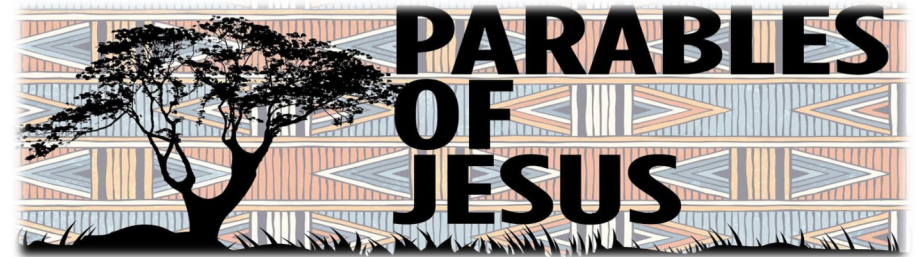
A.W. Tozer

*The second son said, 'I go, sir,' but he went not; and these people do not go. They talk of repenting, but they do not repent. They speak of believing, but they never believe. They think of submitting to God, but they have not submitted themselves to Him yet. They say it is time they broke up the fallow ground, and sought the Lord, but they do not seek Him. It all ends in a mere promise.*

Charles Spurgeon

*Until the will and the affections are brought under the authority of Christ, we have not begun to understand, let alone to accept, His lordship.*

Elisabeth Elliot



Parable of the Two Sons  
Matthew 21:28-32

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

June 28, 2020

1. The Setting (1-22)
2. The Questions (23-27)
3. The Parable (28-30)
4. The Question & Answer (31a)
5. The Explanation (31b-32)

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Con-  
victed you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. In what context does Jesus tell this parable (*Matthew 21:1-27*)? What  
has He done in the few days leading up to this parable?
3. The religious leaders ask Him, *By what authority are You doing these  
things (Matthew 21:23)*. What *things* are they referring to?
4. What is Jesus' authority? Why doesn't He answer the question directly?
5. Why does Jesus answer their question with a question of His own  
(*Matthew 21:23-25*)?

Why won't they answer Jesus' question?

6. Jesus mentions John the Baptist in *Matthew 21:25* and 32. Why?
7. To whom is this parable addressed (*Matthew 21:28-32*)?
8. In what ways are these two sons similar? Different?
9. Was the behavior of either son wholly commendable? Explain.

10. Who do the characters in the parable represent?  
Father —  
  
First Son —  
  
Second Son —
11. What did Jesus mean when He says *tax collectors and prostitutes will  
get into the kingdom of God before the religious leaders of Israel  
(Matthew 21:31-32)*?
12. What does it mean to repent? Is it ever too late to repent?
13. What is hypocrisy? How are we often hypocrites?
14. According to *Acts 3:19*, what are two of the benefits of repentance?  
  
Can you think of other benefits and back them up with Scripture?
15. Is this parable teaching salvation by works? Explain using Scripture.
16. Read *Matthew 21:32* and explain what Jesus is saying in your own  
words.
17. Where would you place yourself on the spectrum of the two broth-  
ers? Why?