

"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. Matthew 21:28-31

What Do You Think?

What do you think? About what? **What thoughts do you let occupy your mind?** I'm not sure what you're asking. **The thoughts that you have in your mind and entertain in your heart will guide the course of your life.** Can you give me an example? **I would be happy to.** **At one time you had it in your mind that you were pretty special. You thought you had the world by the tail. You didn't think you needed any help from anyone. You were independent, headstrong, pride-filled and stubborn.** Yes, I sure was. **You were like your own little god. You certainly didn't want or need me in your life.** Yes, that is sad but true. **You lived entirely for your own comfort and pleasure. You did what you wanted, when you wanted it.** Yes, I did. **Now, why don't you finish the story and tell me how your thinking changed.** Alright, I'd be happy too.

My life was really headed in the wrong direction away from you. I was living a dark and sinful life. Soon enough I began to suffer the consequences of my sinful life. The wages my sinful life paid was brokenness, pain and suffering. My life began to fall apart. I began to see that I wasn't as strong and smart as I thought I was. My pain overcame my pride. I know that I needed help so I cried out to the only one I thought would help me. That was you. You answered my cry. **Yes, I did. What did you do?** I turned away from my sinful life to follow you. I asked you to be my Savior and Lord. **Yes, you did. So your emphatic no to me became a yes to me, is that right?** Yes, that's right. **Your change of mind and heart is now directing the course of your life.** It sure is.

Do you see any possible dangers ahead to avoid? Yes, I do. **What are they?** First, let me say that I want my life to continue to be a constant day by day, moment by moment, yes to you. **Why is that?** It's not because I'm now religious. It's because I have a relationship with you. You love me. **Yes, I do.** My love for you gives me delight to do what pleases you. **So, what's the danger?** I don't ever want to slip into becoming a religious person that obeys you because I should obey you. **What do you think would happen then?** I'd stop following you and go back to doing pretty much my own thing. On the outside I'd probably still look quite religious but my heart would be far from you. **Yes, it would. But, the good thing is that won't happen.** Why not? **You tell me.** We love each other too much to ever let that happen. **That's right. Keep loving me and delighting to do my will and you'll never waver off course.** Yes Lord, I will.

Lord, I know that there is a big difference between being self-righteous, moral, and religious and living a life of faith in you. I love you Lord. It is my desire to live for you and work in your vineyard, as I love, follow and serve you in this life. Amen

Parables*The Two Sons*

"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' "I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

NIV

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

"But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' The son answered, 'No, I won't go,' but later he changed his mind and went anyway. Then the father told the other son, 'You go,' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But he didn't go. "Which of the two obeyed his father?" They replied, "The first." Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do.

NLT

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

NRSV

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard. And he answered, I will not; but afterward he changed his mind and went. Then the man came to the second and said the same [thing]. And he replied, I will [go], sir; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of the father? They replied, 'The first one. Jesus said to them, Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the harlots will get into the kingdom of heaven before you.

AMP

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' "And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went. "The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, 'I will, sir'; but he did not go. "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They *said, "The first." Jesus *said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.

NASB

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.

ESV

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

NKJV

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

"Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, 'Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.' "The son answered, 'I don't want to.' Later on he thought better of it and went. "The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, 'Sure, glad to.' But he never went. "Which of the two sons did what the father asked?" They said, "The first." Jesus said, "Yes, and I tell you that crooks and whores are going to precede you into God's kingdom.

MSG

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

"But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work on the farm today.' 'I won't,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father told the youngest, 'You go!' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But he didn't. Which of the two was obeying his father?" They replied, "The first, of course." Then Jesus explained his meaning: "Surely evil men and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom before you do.

TLB

Matthew 21:28-31

Parables*The Two Sons*

"Tell me what you think about this: A man had two sons. He went to the first son and said, 'Son, go and work today in my vineyard.' The son answered, 'I will not go.' But later the son changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said, 'Son, go and work today in my vineyard.' The son answered, 'Yes, sir, I will go and work,' but he did not go. Which of the two sons obeyed his father?" The priests and leaders answered, "The first son." Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes will enter the kingdom of God before you do.

NCV

Matthew 21:28-31

The Two Sons

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Parables – Matthew 21:28-31

In Context: *Read Matthew 21*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. Matthew 21:28-31

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"What do you think? | There was | a man | who had | two sons. | He went | to the first | and | said, | 'Son, | go | and | work today | in the | vineyard.' | 'I will not,' | he answered, | but later | he changed | his mind | and went. | "Then the father | went to | the other son | and said | the same thing. | He answered, | 'I will, sir,' | but he | did not go. | "Which of | the two | did what | his father wanted?" | "The first," | they answered. | Jesus said | to them, | "I tell you | the truth, | the tax collectors | and | the prostitutes | are entering | the kingdom | of God | ahead of you. Matthew 21:28-31

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I know that there is a big difference between being self-righteous, moral, and religious and living a life of faith in you. I love you Lord. It is my desire to live for you and work in your vineyard, as I love, follow and serve you in this life. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How is living a religious and moral life like working in your own vineyard instead of the Lord's vineyard?

How difficult can it be for the moral and religious to see that they are not working in God's vineyard?

Why will your own good attempts at religious and moral living never gain your entrance into heaven?

How is the vineyard of faith in Christ far different than the vineyard of religious and moral activity?

Why do you desperately need forgiveness and salvation in Christ instead of moral and religious effort?

Who is Jesus Christ and what did He come into the world to do for you, that you couldn't do for yourself?

Why is turning your life over to Christ and following Him as your Savior and Lord the only way to heaven?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Live a life of faith in the Lord; loving, following and serving Him in all the work that He gives you to do for Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you are working for the Lord, in the right vineyard, as you love, follow and serve Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has guided the work He has given you to do for Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

