



**The Parable of The Two Sons Made Simple
(Matthew 21:28-32)**

This is the Parable of the Two Sons. I pray that what you get out of this will minister to your spirit. The passage is found in Matthew 21:28-32.

28 "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.' 29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 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. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

Jesus might have appeared to be harsh on the Pharisees here. He's given them a little bit of a rebuke. It's a loving thing to grow up in a

family and have a father rebuke and discipline you in love. Jesus was nothing but a loving person. The purpose of the commands and the law in the Bible is to show us that when we're not worthy of God, that we can't possibly measure up to Him.

Heidi Baker of Iris Ministries, a very well known missionary who does healing ministry, wrote a book on the beatitudes (the Sermon on the Mount) found in the gospel of Matthew. In the foreword, her husband Rolland Baker, wrote that wherever he went, people he asked about the Sermon on the Mount would say they were not sure it was possible or practical to live what Jesus preached.

It is indeed impossible to live a life that way. But Heidi believed that it was not only possible, but that's the way we should live our life.

Well, I will tell you something: no person can ever do it. The only way a Christian can do it is through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. A Christian can't do it in his own flesh. He can't just love Jesus and obey the commandments in the Sermon on the Mount. Let us be immersed with the mind of Christ and live a supernatural life in a supernatural dimension. When you follow every thought that comes to you from the Holy Spirit, then you're living a life that Jesus said is possible when he spoke about the beatitudes.

The Sermon on the Mount is still part of the law. If you don't do it, you're not going to be worthy. The law is meant to bring you to your knees and say, "Jesus, Jesus, please help me." It's only when you come in submission, that the power of the Holy Spirit is released. As a Christian, when you come to the end of yourself, and say, "I just can't stop sinning. Lord, please help me," that is when the Lord steps in fast and operates supernaturally through your life.

The Pharisees were strict in obeying the law. And sometimes Jesus had to rebuke them because they had this mindset about something. Jesus told this parable regarding the two sons. And he said, someone came to his son, 'Son, go and work today in my vineyard.' The son said, 'No, I'm not going work in your vineyard.' And then later he changed his mind and worked in the vineyard. He said to the second son, "Work in my vineyard." And he said, "Yes." But then he didn't do it.

And Jesus was saying that the Pharisees profess to follow the law, they profess to want to please God and do everything obedient to God. On one hand, they were saying that they want to obey everything that God commanded but when someone came to preach repentance, they resisted. But listen here Pharisees - the prostitutes, tax collectors and sinners realized that they had fault in their own life. They realize that they fell short and they needed to get close to God.

See, it's a lot easier for someone who's done a lot of sin to come to Jesus because they know that they have faults so often. They are just lost and have no answers for the questions of life. It is amazing when someone who doesn't know God comes, falls at his feet and gives his life to Jesus. But it's a terrible thing for a person with pride, who's puffed up with self righteousness to think that he is obeying the whole law.

It's really hard to get through to a person like that. It's hard to correct a person who thinks that he is doing everything right. The Pharisees were very good at interpreting the law, justifying themselves and saying that they were perfect in the law. That was the reason why Jesus shared this parable.

Essentially, Jesus used a parable to say to the Pharisees, "You want to please the Father, be righteous and do everything the Father says. But here I am, a prophet, telling you a new and better way but you won't receive it. You won't receive the baptism of John; you won't receive me. I've got a new yoke; I'm a rabbi with a new form of teaching. There's a new way of doing things now. You need to turn around and follow my way. But you won't do it. You're obstinate; you're stubborn; you're proud. You're full of self righteousness.

"And the sinners and the tax collectors are entering in before you there. They're like the son who said, 'I'd never come.' They were people steeped in sin. They were so far from God and then they relented and said, "No, God's the answer. I will obey God. I will put away my life of sin and I'll start to walk in a righteous and holy way."

This parable still rings out today. To the sinner, there is hope. To the person who has said no to God all their life but is weighed down with lack of answers and hope, there is a way to give in and say "Okay God, you win". It will be like the son who said he wasn't going to the vineyard and yet changed his mind.

If you are a person who thinks that you are good enough and don't need God; you might be a sweet and kind person who does more right than wrong; you might be very spiritual and into all things about God except to say Jesus is the only way. You might be a little like these Pharisees of old who thought they were justified by all the good things they did and did not respond to the words of Jesus Christ.

Which son are you? Are you going to work in the vineyard for God?