

Lesson Three: The Parable of the Two Sons

Lesson Text: Matthew 21:28-32

Matthew 21:28-32

28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him. (KJV)

Notes

1. Where did this teaching take place?
2. What events caused Jesus to teach this parable?
3. What did the father command his sons to do?
4. What was the first son's initial response to the command of his father? What did he ultimately do?
5. What was the second son's initial response to the command of his father? What did he ultimately do?
6. What is the crucial difference between the response of the two sons?
7. How did the audience which was listening to Jesus fit the description of the two sons?
8. Could the two sons represent anyone other than the audience of Jesus? Explain.
9. What is the main lesson of this parable?
10. What purpose of parabolic teaching did Jesus accomplish with this parable? Explain.
11. How does this parable relate to authority?
12. Cite, if you can, some secondary lessons that might be learned from this parable.