



FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

LEARNING FROM THE MASTER (JESUS CHRIST- OUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE)

STUDY 21-62 – THE PARABLES OF JESUS - Parable No. 37- The Parable of the Two sons

TEXT: Matt.21:28-32

LAST WEEK: Parable of The Talents MATT. 25:14-30

LESSONS: - Each individual has been entrusted with resources of time and material wealth. Everything we have comes from God and belongs to Him. We are responsible for using those resources so that they increase in value.

THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS (MATT.21:28-32)

INTRODUCTION

The Parable of the Two Sons can be found in Matthew 21:28-32. The basic story is of a man with two sons who told them to go work in the vineyard. The first son refused, but later obeyed and went. The second son initially expressed obedience, but actually disobeyed and refused to work in the vineyard. The son who ultimately did the will of his father was the first son because he eventually obeyed. Jesus then likens the first son to tax collectors and prostitutes—the outcasts of Jewish society—because they believed John the Baptist and accepted “the way of righteousness” (v. 32), in spite of their initial disobedience to the Law.

Looking at the overall context of this passage: Matthew chapter 21 begins with Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem the crowd responds by shouting Hosannas and praises to the King. The King’s first act upon entering Jerusalem is to cleanse the temple (21:12-17). Afterwards, we see Jesus cursing a fig tree (21:18-22). This account may seem an isolated story, but Jesus was making a strong symbolic point. The fig tree is often symbolic of Israel (cf. Hosea 9:10; Joel 1:7). The fact that the fig tree had leaves but no fruit is symbolic of Israel’s religious activity—i.e., all the trappings of spirituality, but no substance. Israel may have had the leaves of activity, but not the fruit of repentance and obedience to God, which is why Jesus tells them the prostitutes and tax collectors will enter the kingdom ahead of them (v. 31).

In Matthew 21:23-27, the religious authorities—the chief priests and elders—question Jesus’ authority. Who is this Jesus who comes into Jerusalem receiving the praises of the masses and drives the moneychangers out of the temple? The stage is set for the showdown. It is in this context that Jesus tells three parables—the Two Sons, the Tenants, and the Wedding Feast. Each of these parables is told to the Jewish religious leaders, each illustrates their rejection of Jesus, and each pronounces judgment on Israel for their rejection of their Messiah. In the Parable of the Two Sons, the leaders of Israel are the second son who claimed obedience but did not do the will of the father.

Conclusions:

In the sight of God works are of more value than words.

The purpose of the works must follow Christ's example to fulfill the will of the Father.

Through the practical fulfillment of God's will, past disobedience and evil living must be atoned for.

By this means, the lowest and most despised sinner may obtain precedence in the kingdom of heaven over those who are far above them in rank and importance.

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard shows the incredible importance and value of God's grace while this parable shows us the necessity and importance of our own cooperation with this grace.