

Let's Go To Work!

Ponder: Will you work today in the Lord's vineyard?

Scripture: "Son, go, work today in my vineyard" (Matthew 21:28 NKJV).

In Jesus' parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28-32) the father told both of his sons to go work, but their responses were opposite. Son #1 curtly replied, "I will not!" Later, however, he repented and went. Son #2 said he would obey, but never did. Ideally, both sons should have said and done as their father ordered; but, in the final analysis, only son #1 did his father's will. The second was all talk, no action.

Jesus spoke this parable to the chief priests and elders (v. 23). Like son #2, they pretended to be obedient to the Father (God). Jesus, however, saw right through their hypocrisy. Only the day before, He had driven the corrupt merchants and profiteering money-changers from the Temple. Now the chief priests and elders were challenging His right to do such things.

Part of their disapproval stemmed from Jesus' association with "sinners." Jesus drove His point home: "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. 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" (21:31, 32).

What about us? Will we go and work in our Father's vineyard? With our sins, we have all answered, "I will not!" Yet, like the first son, we can change our minds and go to work. God will forgive us. Saul (Paul), the self-professed chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), became one of the most productive workmen ever to labor in the Lord's vineyard.

But aren't we also like the second son? It's one thing to *say* we will work; actually doing so is another matter entirely. Even if we attend "every time the doors are opened," are we truly working in the vineyard? Lost people need teaching; saved people need strengthening; discouraged people need encouragement; sick and needy people need care. Let us not wear a veneer of religiosity like the chief priests and elders. Let us work today in God's vineyard!