

LESSON FOR JANUARY 24
THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS
Matthew 21:28-32

I. The Context (which is very important in this parable)

By using a Harmony of the Gospels you will discover:

- A. The triumphal entry had occurred on Sunday (21:1-11)
- B. The cleansing of the temple on Monday (21:12-17)
- C. A challenge to Christ by the religious leaders on Tuesday (21:23-27)
- D. Then this parable in response to that challenge

II. The Challenge of the Religious Leaders, 21:23-27

- A. Their question, 23
- B. The Lord's question in reply, 25
- C. Their dilemma, 25-26
- D. Their cop-out, 27
- E. The Lord's point: His authority, like John's, was from heaven.

III. The Question the Parable of the Two Sons Answers:

Who is a genuine son of the Kingdom? The answer: the one who shows his true heart condition by obedience. Obedience proves true sonship. Illustration: a genuine diamond will cut glass; a fake will crumble. The genuine works; the fake does not. A counterfeit bill won't buy anything though it looks real.

IV. The Application of the Parable in the Lord's Day

- A. The religious leaders are represented by the son who said he would go and did not. John 5:35; Luke 7:29-30.
- B. The tax collectors and harlots by the son who was at first rebellious, then repented, and obeyed.

V. The Application of the Parable Today

- A. Religious profession does not necessarily mean possession.
- B. Position in the religious community does not necessarily mean one is a genuine believer.
- C. Some who we think can scarcely be saved are. Others who seem to be may not be.
- D. Matthew 7:20. James 2:18-26.