

Year A - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 21:28-32

The son went out moved by regret.



Jesus said:

"I will tell you a story about a man who had two sons.

Then you can tell me what you think.

"The father went to the older son and said,

'Go work in the vineyard today!'

His son told him that he would not do it, but later he changed his mind and went.

The man then told his younger son to go work in the vineyard.

The boy said he would, but he didn't go.

Which one of the sons obeyed his father?"

"The older one," the chief priests and leaders answered.

Then Jesus told them:

"You can be sure that tax collectors and bad women will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will! When John the Baptist showed you how to do right, you would not believe him.

But these evil people did believe.

And even when you saw what they did, you still would not change your minds and believe."



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A 'Do-Over'



Introduction

- Jesus wants us to keep the promises we make however we are not perfect and sometimes we need a 'do-over' to get back on track.
- Today's gospel asks us to think about the commitment we make to following God. Jesus tells the priests and leaders the story of the two sons to show the way in which we can make choices to go away from our promise or how we can make the journey back to our promises.

Message

- In the story, the man asks the older son to go and work in the vineyard, at first he says no but later on comes back and changes his mind.
- Ask the children when are the times they may have made choices like the older son.
- The man also asks the younger son to go and work in vineyard, he says he would, but then never shows up and doesn't complete the job.
- Ask the children when are the times they may have made choices like the younger son.
- Jesus calls us to make a full commitment or promise to follow him. When we make choices however that ask us to break that promise we can still change our choice, a do-over for us to come back to that promise.
- Jesus challenges us however, to try and keep those promises as best as we can. Ask the children, what are some of the things or choices that can stop us from keeping our promises to God.

Discussion

- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand. Also check if they are any words or phrases that stood out for them.
- What does it mean to make a commitment?
- Is it the same as making a promise?
- What happens when you break a promise?

