



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

The Two Sons

Matthew 21:28-32

As seen in the last two parables,
Jesus often responded to questions
from His disciples with a parable

"The Unmerciful Servant"

(**Mt 18:21-35**),

teaches us there is no place
in the kingdom of heaven for

"an unforgiving spirit"

"The Laborers In The Vineyard"

(**Mt 20:1-16**),

teaches us there is
no room in the kingdom of heaven
for those with

"an envious spirit"!

In our lesson for today
is an account of a man
with two sons and a vineyard

The father tells his two sons
to work in the vineyard

The **first son** says
he won't go,
but later regretted it and went

The **second son** said
he would,
but did not actually go

JESUS EXPLAINS THE PARABLE...

He begins with a question:

"Who of the two did
the will of his father?"

The answer is obvious, and
the religious leaders reply

"The first"

Jesus' reply to the religious leaders is then very direct.

"Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you." (V 31)

"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."

Jesus was applying this parable
to the religious leaders of His day

They were like the second son,
who said he would go,
but didn't

Whereas those tax collectors and harlots
who repented at the preaching of John
were like the first son,
who first said "no",
but then went.

- Jesus reprimanded the Pharisees for three central failings.
- First, they were guilty of hypocrisy.
 - They pretended to be devoted,
 - And went to great lengths to appear righteous,
 - But they did not actually follow through with genuine, loving obedience to God
(**Matthew 23:4-7,25-28**).

- **Second**, they gave attention to some biblical matters, but neglected others of greater importance

- **Matthew 23:23**

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

You pay a tenth of mint, dill, and cumin,

yet you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy, and faith.

These things should have been done without neglecting the others.

- Jesus referred to this tendency **as straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel**
(Matthew 23:24)

(Of course, He was not advocating gnat-swallowing).

Third,
they misinterpreted Mosaic law
(Matthew 5:17-48)

and even went about
binding and enforcing their human
traditions, laws, and doctrines
to the level of scripture
(Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13)

Jesus repeatedly
upbraided the Pharisees
for these three spiritual maladies.

The Pharisees were
not condemned because
they were too zealous
about strict obedience to God's will.

They were condemned because
“they say, and do not”

Matthew 23:2

- God always has been vitaly concerned that those who wish to be pleasing to Him give great care to obeying the details and particulars of His instructions

- Leviticus 10:1-3

Nadab and Abihu

- 2 Samuel 6:1-7

Uzzah struck dead.

- Jesus even equated this crucial sensitivity to obedience with love for Him

- John 14:15

**“If you love Me,
you will keep My commands.**

- John 15:14

**You are My friends if
you do what I command you.**

- Many who possess a flippant attitude toward rigid obedience, think that they are avoiding a “legalistic” syndrome, when they actually are demonstrating lax, weak spirituality and unfaithfulness.

- **“Faithfulness”**
is, by definition,
loyal compliance
with obeying God’s will

- **James 2:17-26**
**faith, if it doesn’t
have works,
is dead by itself.**

- **“Righteousness”**
is, by definition,
right doing

Acts 10:34-35

Cornelius

1 John 3:7

The one who does right,
is righteous

- **Abraham understood this**

Genesis 26:5

Abraham **obeyed** my voice,
my commandments,
my statutes, and my laws.

- **Moses understood this**

Deuteronomy 4:2

You shall **not add** unto the word which I
command you, neither shall you **diminish**
it, that you may keep the commandments
of the LORD your God
which I command you.

- Joshua understood this
Joshua 23:6

Be therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that you turn not aside therefrom *to the right hand or to the left;*

- John understood this
1John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:

It must have been a **shock**
to hear Jesus tell them that
those despised
by the Jews
would enter the
kingdom of God
before their religious leaders!

But as Luke records in his gospel...

The tax collectors (and others) who
accepted John's baptism
"justified God". (Lk 7:29)

Whereas those religious leaders
who were not baptized
"rejected the counsel of God
for themselves"

Luke 7:29-30

Jesus will have more to say
concerning these religious
leaders in His

next two parables,

but

what important lesson

can we draw from this
parable for us today?

Jesus is saying that **greatness** in the kingdom of God is measured in terms of **obedience.**

- That cannot refer to the man who accidentally does the will of God because it so happens that his pleasure coincides with God's pleasure,
 - Just as a person may walk in the same path as another without intending to be his companion.

**"The Lord knows those
who belong to him,"
(2 Timothy 2:19)**

THIS LESSON IS ONE SORELY NEEDED TODAY...

The doctrines of
"cheap grace"
and "easy believism"
have created a generation of
"sayers" and not "doers".

Many profess Jesus
as Lord, but then don't
do what He says.

Luke 6:46

*And why call ye me,
Lord, Lord, and do not
the things which I say?*

They are like the
second son,
who says he will do
the father's will,
but doesn't

Misunderstanding the doctrine of "salvation by grace through faith", many people have concluded that requiring obedience to God's command is "legalism" or "salvation by works of merit".

**Yet nothing could
be further
from the truth!**

Keeping the
commandments of God
is essential to salvation

And many are the
scriptures that make
that point.

- The major threat confronting the people of God today **is the perennial problem of humanity:**
 - A stubborn, rebellious propensity for **an unwillingness** to submit humbly to God's directives

- That is precisely why, after rebuking the Pharisees for neglecting the **“weightier matters of the law”** (justice, mercy, faith, and the love of God) (**John 5:42**),
 - Jesus reiterated:
“These (the weightier matters)
 - **you ought to have done,**
 - **without leaving the others undone** (the less weightier matters) (**Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42**).

This also is why Jesus declared:

**“Whoever therefore breaks
one of the least of these commandments,
and teaches men so,
shall be called least
in the kingdom of heaven.**

**For I say to you, that unless
your righteousness
exceeds the righteousness of
the scribes and Pharisees,
you will by no means enter
the kingdom of heaven”**

(Matthew 5:19-20)

- Those who relegate some doctrinal matters to a status of **“less importance”**
- And who teach others to participate in **unscriptural innovations,**
- Thinking that God will not be **“nit-picky”**
- Will find themselves facing **eternal tragedy.**

**When we keep God's
commandments,**
we in no way earn
or merit salvation.

We simply do that which is our
duty to do, and always remain

"unprofitable servants"

saved by grace

(Lk 17:10; Tit 3:4-7)

Titus 3:8

that they which
have believed in
God might be
careful to maintain
good works...

Remember that it was the
"**religious leaders**"
in Jesus' day who "
rejected the counsel of God
for themselves"

in not accepting John's teaching for the
need for repentance and baptism

Who likely believed that they had good
"**theological grounds**"
for not heeding the simple commands of
God given through His preachers

Many "religious leaders"
of our day...

Reject the clear teaching of Christ and
His apostles concerning the commands to
repent and be baptized
Mk 16:15-16; Ac 2:38

They reject the
"counsel of God for themselves"
based upon
"theological grounds"

When the common man
who reads without
preconceived notions
has no problem
understanding what the
Scriptures teach on the
subject.

We must carefully
**“do all those things which
are commanded”**

(Luke 17:10),

Recalling Jesus' words:

**“Why call ye me,
Lord, Lord,
and do not the things
which I say?”**

(Luke 6:46).

- We must stake our lives upon the grace of God,
(Ephesians 2:8)
 - But then we must love and obey Him, remembering that **“this is love for God: that we keep his commandments”**
(1 John 5:3).

**Doors of the church
are open.**

**Spirit & Bride Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17

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