

September 27th 2026 26th Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A Matthew 21:28-32

²¹⁻²⁸“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ²⁹“I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹“Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.	➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition. ➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).
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In this week’s gospel we see the very different temperaments of the two sons. The first one comes across as rough and rebellious but he eventually simmers down once he ‘thinks the better of it’. The second son answers very positively immediately ‘certainly sir’ but he does not deliver. We can identify with both. We can feel the passion of Jesus, his frustration and his deep admiration for those who have listened to his call. At all times Jesus remains non violent. We are also reminded today that conversion does not leave our egos intact. It is always a humbling experience.

When have we experienced receiving repeated messages that we should change our lives and did not listen? Who are the people that we eventually did listen to and had a real conversion to a better way of living?

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for those unconventional people who appear to ignore the ‘right’ way of doing things, and yet they have taught us something about true goodness.

Forgive us Lord for the times we did not listen to the often repeated messages given to us that we would be better if we changed our ways. We considered those giving the message to be spiritually inferior or ignore the right way of doing things.

Help us Lord to be the presence of Jesus in our modern world trying to develop local communities, recognising each persons giftedness in bringing us all to make our way into the kingdom.