

For Reading 2

Q: How hard do you find putting the self-interests of others ahead of your own? Why is this difficult?

Q: How can we align our faith and our actions? How can we live our lives the same way our Savior did?

For the Gospel:

Q: How difficult is true moral change?

Q: What stops us from moral change? Why?

Q: How has God called you to change? What changes can you see in your life from God's call? What changes can you see in others' lives from the call of the Lord?

Q: Where you think you hear the call of the Lord in your life? How is God leading you to change? Pray for the wisdom to clearly discern the Lord's voice and the power to change.



Weekly Reflection

FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

The 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time



"The tax collectors and harlots go into the kingdom of God before you "

♦ **Ezekiel 18: 25-28:**

Is it my way that is unfair or, rather, are not your ways unfair?

♦ **Psalm 25: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14**

R: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

♦ **Philippians 2: 1-11, 27a**

♦ Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.

♦ **Matthew 21: 28-32**

Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.

"Lord Jesus, change my heart that I may truly desire that which is pleasing to you. Help me to respect your will and give me the strength, joy and perseverance to carry it out wholeheartedly."

Question of the Week: Are you putting the Will of God into action?



Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not, ' but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

Gospel Meditation

What kind of future are you preparing for?

Jesus encourages us to think – to think about the consequences of our choices, especially the choices and decisions that will count not just for now but for eternity as well. The choices we make now will affect and shape our future, both our future on earth as well as in the life of the age to come.

Jesus tells a simple story of two imperfect sons to illustrate the way of God's kingdom. The father amply provided for his sons food, lodging, and everything they needed. Everything the father had belonged to them as well. The father also rewarded his sons with excellent work in his own vineyard. He expected them to show him gratitude, loyalty, and honor by doing their fair share of the daily work. The "rebellious" son told his father to his

face that he would not work for him. But afterwards he changed his mind and did what his father commanded him. The "good" son said he would work for his father, but didn't carry through. He did his own pleasure contrary to his father's will. Now who was really the good son? Both sons disobeyed their father; but one repented and then did what the father told him.

Jesus makes his point clear: Good intentions are not enough. And promises don't count unless they are performed. God wants to change our hearts so that we will show by our speech and by our actions that we respect his will and we are ready to do what he commands. God offers each of us the greatest treasure possible – unending peace, joy, happiness, and life with him in his kingdom. We can lose that treasure if we refuse the grace God offers us to follow in his way of truth and righteousness. Do you respect the will of your Father in heaven?

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Readings Reflections

For Reading 1:

Q: Why is it easy to judge others harshly?

*Q: How can we easily judge others or excuse our own sinfulness?
How does God's thinking differ from ours?*

For the Responsorial Psalm:

Q: How smooth or rough has your spiritual path been over the past year?

Q: How do you feed your spirit every day? How have your efforts given you comfort, even in the tough times?