

ALL TALK

Matthew 21:28-32

Introduction: Just about every parent has told his/her children to do something and heard the reply, "I don't want to," "I'll do it after while," "O.K., sure," etc. and later the parent comes back and finds that maybe the children had done what they were asked to do and maybe they had not. Jesus told a parable about a father who had a vineyard and wanted his two sons to go do some work in it for him. One said "nope, not me" but later changed his mind and worked in the vineyard while the other son who said, "sure, be glad to," never got around to doing anything in the vineyard.

There are several ways to apply this story, one way is of a lost person saying "no" to Jesus but later saying "yes" and becoming a Christian, and another way is the way many Christians live. They "play like" they are serving God, say that they love the Lord Jesus, but in reality, they are not really doing anything at all for Him. They are just "all talk."

I. THINGS NEED TO BE DONE

1. The father in the parable asked his sons to work in the vineyard, for there were things that needed to be done there.
2. God calls for His Children to work in His "fields" for they are "white unto harvest." The Christian life is not one of just sitting back and waiting to go to Heaven.
 - An old story is told about some sailors landing on an island where it was always afternoon and they ate of a "Lotus" plant that made them sleepy and dreamy and they lost all desire to do anything else but lie around and eat of that tree and just dream.
 - Many Christians are like those sailors - content to lie back and enjoy the security of their salvation and never realize that there is much they need to be doing for the Lord.
 - Sadly, some Church members are using the Church as a shelter, thinking that once inside, they can rest at ease and just let the world go by.
 - True there is kind of protection and safety in a Church Family and one can draw strength from the Family, but the Church is like the vineyard, it is a place of work. Every member of the Church Family should be active and busy working for the Heavenly Father.
3. Many call themselves "Christians" but seldom spend a half hour a week working in God's Vineyard.
 - Many say that they are "Christians" and yet are too lazy to visit someone who is entangled in sin.
 - The Lord's vineyard, the Lord's Church is a place where there is work to be done.
4. In the parable, the call was to "go work today." Jesus wants Christians to work for Him TODAY. After all, TODAY is the only time there is. Yesterday is gone forever and we dare not boast of Tomorrow, therefore Today is all that we have. Today is our chance, our one opportunity to serve, to work for the Lord. If we hold back and put off, if we wait until "tomorrow" to do today's work, the work will never be done.

II. THOSE WHO ARE TO DO THE WORK

1. Notice the two sons of the father in the parable - One was polite and respectful and when asked to work he replied immediately, "Yes Sir." Even though his brother refused, he would not, He would go.
 - Why did he fail to go?
 - He had full intentions of obeying his father.
 - He found that actually doing the work was much harder than "saying he would."
 - This son represents the vast multitudes of Church members who profess much but practice little.
 - Many people pledge their loyalty to Christ and then fall down on their pledge.
 - In the early days of the Church there was a group of false-Christians who were called Gnostics. They make great professions, they prided themselves on their fellowship with God, on their walking in the light, on their living above sin, yet many of them still lived in the depth of sin.
 - The Gnostics spoke of knowing God and of loving God but had contempt in their hearts for their Christian brothers and sisters. Thus even in the early Church there were those who "praised" love but did not practice it.
 - A "profession" without practice, a "promise" without performance, these are the greatest enemies of the cause of Christ.
 - How many people go to "Church" for reasons other than to actually worship God?
 - It is a sad message, but it is a true one. How many have been hindered in their search for truth by the undesirable lives of those claiming to be Christians?
2. Then the other son said "no." He offered no excuse or reason. Many without Jesus are like this son. Many "called" Christians are also like this son.
 - They have nothing to do with the Church and offer no excuse.
 - Many are quite quick to confess they are sinners and seem to feel that this can be a substitute for their need of obedience to the Lord Jesus.
 - This son made a change. He changed his mind. Not only did he have a change of mind, but he actually went to work.

CONCLUSION:

1. Which of the two sons of the farmer did what their father wanted? Of all things that could be said about these two sons, the only important thing to consider is whether they did the will of their father.
2. Everything else is of no importance. No matter how good the intentions, no matter how many the promises, the fact is that ONE son did and ONE son did not do his father's will.
3. Fine words and good intentions never take the place of actually doing.
4. So, which of the two sons are you like?