

# The Better Of Two Bad Sons

**In one short parable Jesus Christ gives all Christians a vital key to a right father/son relationship.**

A parable often read over because of the more well-known scriptures on either side.

**Matthew 21:28-31** [New King James] *“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’’ He answered and said, ‘‘I will not,’’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘‘I go, sir,’’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’’ They said to Him, ‘‘The first.’’ Jesus said to them, ‘‘Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.’’*

**This should be looked on as a guideline to our approach to our calling to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and our preparation for the job of work that will be ours after His Second Coming.**

This parable is a picture of two very imperfect sets of people.

Neither bring full joy to their father.

**These two sons represent two classes of people in the world.**

**a) Those who promise great things and make a show of piety and fidelity but what they actually do lags far behind their promise.**

**b) Those whose practice and performance are greater than what they may profess to be personally.**

These people may claim to be hard-headed materialists, with no interest in any religion or religious practice.

**But secretly they are kind, generous and act as if they are ashamed of the good works they do.**

**Neither of these groups of people are anything like God would want them to be or become.**

**What we profess and what we actually do must match –**

**Promises can never take the place of performance.**

**Fine words are no substitute for action.**

The second son addressed the father as “*sir*” showing respect towards him. Relate this towards the respectful words in our prayers to our Heavenly Father.

**But true courtesy and respect is obedience willingly and graciously given.**

**A person can spoil their actions by the way they perform them in a reluctant manner.**

**2 Corinthians 9:7** [New King James] *“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

**This applies to every action of serving other people, as well as our Creator God.**

**Notice the context of this short parable –**

**Matthew 22:2-3** [New King James] *“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.”*

This call of God to be part of His Kingdom and a job of work with His Son Jesus Christ in an intimate relationship with Him.

**Matthew 22:5** [New King James] *“But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.”*

**This is something not to be taken lightly.**

**Matthew 22:14** [New King James] *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

**Many may be called to join Jesus Christ in His work but few take up the challenge which will involve our whole life now.**

**Luke 14:26-27, 33** [New King James] *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” ... “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

**Preparing to work with Jesus Christ after His Second Coming is not a part-time job but the total dedication of our lives. To “bear our cross” is to be willing to lay down our life and our will to fulfil God’s will, as Jesus Christ did on His cross.**

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Our surrender to the will of our Creator God should be out of gratitude for what He has done for us, in giving us life and His mercy and patience as we struggle to fulfil His will.

**Romans 12:2** [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**The Holy Spirit, sent by God the Father, will then work in us and through us to re-educate us in preparation for our future work with Jesus Christ.**

We must never take this calling from our Creator God lightly, if we are like the first son [**Matthew 21:29**] and have in the past **not** yielded our will and lives to our Creator God, follow His example and regret our past attitude and start submitting to our Creator God today.