

ST. GABRIEL'S BULLETIN

26th Sunday (A)

27th October, 2020



THE TWO SONS

There are three ways of reading today's parable about the two sons who were asked to go and work in the vineyard.

One way is to view it as a simple story about two men. The first told his father that he would go and work, but he broke his promise and never bothered to do what he had agreed to do. The second son ignored his father's request but later thought better of it and went to the vineyard to work. Jesus asks his audience which of the two sons they think did the father's will. It's obvious that it's the second son.

Another way of looking at this parable is to realise that Jesus was addressing it to the religious leaders rather than the ordinary people. They were represented by the first son. They had learnt all the laws and customs of their religion, they went to the synagogue and the Temple, but they were lukewarm in their love of God and neighbour, knowing how to do the minimum and still stay on the side of right. The second son symbolised the ordinary people who perhaps were not as involved as the religious leaders

but nevertheless delivered the goods when it mattered. (Jesus told this parable in the last week of his life when the religious leaders stepped up their attack on him. It's not surprising that they were annoyed!)

Or perhaps the best way of reading this parable, in order to make sense of it here and now, is to recognise that each of us has a bit of both sons in us. There's a part of us that has said yes to God but when it's crunch time we know that we largely go through the motions when it comes to our faith. We are seen at Church but we're not prepared really to get involved in our community and we leave that up to those who usually can be relied on to step forward when help is needed. And yet there's another part of us, the second son, which realises our need to respond in a deeper fashion to God's call. We don't want to be thought of as religious maniacs but in our heart of hearts we know that God is calling out to us and we put in just enough effort to stay on the books.

Maybe this parable is inviting us to be clear about those areas where we're slow to act on our faith, and to do something about it?

MASS READINGS

Today

1. Ezekiel 18:25-28
2. Philippians 21-11
3. Matthew 21:28-32

Psalm 24

Remember your mercy, Lord.

Next Sunday

1. Isaiah 5:1-7
2. Philippians 4:6-9
3. Matthew 21:33-43

Psalm 79

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel

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PARISH CLERGY

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Sunday Masses
during pandemic

9am and 11am

Tickets for mass can be obtained from Eventbrite via parish website and Facebook page.