

Matthew 21:28-32 **Two Sons**

28 "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.' 29 "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 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. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Message of the Illustration of the Two Sons [Matthew 21:28-32]

- ✚ The Kingdom of Heaven is offered to all of us the same.
 - ✧ Some of us say we are willing to accept it and to obey the commandments of Jesus, then refuse to show any fruit of obedience in our lives.
 - ✧ Others reject it at first and then reconsider and repent, becoming obedient to the commandments of Jesus.
 - ✧ As Jesus said, "By their fruits you will know them." [Matthew 7:15-20, 12:33, Luke 6:43-45]
 - ✧ So the evidence of truth, is the fruit of the life.
- ✚ Jesus was speaking to the Chief Priests and Elders, the highest authorities of Jewish religious order. [Matthew 21:23]
 - ✧ The worst of sinners in the Jewish mind, tax collectors and harlots, will enter the Kingdom of God before you, because they repented when they heard the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven, while the Chief Priests and Elders are seeking to kill the Son of God out of jealous defense of their exalted position among the people.
 - ✧ John called them to repent, turn to God, and bear fruit of righteousness, but they did not believe John.
 - ✧ The Chief Priests and Elders did not repent even after they witnessed the acceptance of the Gospel message by the common people.
- ✚ Jesus condemnation of the cities of Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida was the same as the message to the Chief Priests and Elders of Jerusalem. [Matthew 11:20-24]
 - ✧ For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
 - ✧ For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.
 - ✧ But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.
- ✚ It is a serious thing to hear, or have access to, the Gospel of the Kingdom and to reject it. [Matthew 10:5-15, 11:20-24, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 10:1-12, 13-16]
- ✚ This becomes one of the factors considered at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - ✧ When He will separate the ones to inherit the Kingdom, from those purged out and cast into punishment. [Matthew 7:13-23, 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50, 22:1-14, 24:45-51, 25:14-30, 31-46, Luke 12:35-48, 13:23-30, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10, 2 Timothy 4:1, Jude 1:14-15]
 - ✧ This agrees with the prophecies of the Old Testament. [Malachi 3:1-5, 18, 4:1, Isaiah 1:24-31, 29:20-21, 33:14, 59:1-21, 66:14b-16, Ezekiel 20:33-38, Daniel 7:26, Joel 3:12-14, Zechariah 12:1-14]
- ✚ Jesus had previously said, "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom

will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." [\[Matthew 8:11-13\]](#)

✠ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last." [\[Luke 13:28-30\]](#)