

## GOOD SON, BAD SON

Matthew 21:28-32

November 9, 2008 Sunday pm

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus often responded to questions from his disciples with a parable. For example...
  - 1. The Unmerciful Servant (Mt. 18:21-35) responded to “How many times must I forgive a brother?”
  - 2. The Laborers in the Vineyard (Mt. 20:1-16) responded to “What’s in it for us?”
- B. Jesus sometimes responded to his critics and enemies with a parable too.
  - 1. During the final week of Jesus’ public ministry he was challenged by critics—Mt. 21:23-27 READ.
  - 2. He responded to these critics with three parables.
    - a. The Two Son—21:28-32.
    - b. The Wicked Vinedressers—21:33-46.
    - c. The Wedding Feast—22:1-14.
  - 3. Tonight we look at the first of the three.

### I. WHAT DOES THIS PARABLE MEAN?

- A. It’s a short and simple parable—21:28-30 READ.
- B. Jesus explains its meaning.
  - 1. He begins with a question for his critics—v.31a.
  - 2. One critic answers the question—v.31b.
  - 3. Jesus applies the parable to his critics—31c-32.
    - a. The critics are the second son.
    - b. The social outcasts were the first son.

### II. WHAT’S THE POINT OF THIS PARABLE?

- A. The point is that performance is more important than promises or professions..
- B. This is supported elsewhere in scripture.
  - Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**
  - Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?**
- C. We are not saved by our performance, but our performance is proof we are saved.
- D. Does our performance match our profession?

### CONCLUSION

- A. Who do we most resemble in this parable? The first or second son; the good one or bad one?
- B. Has God asked us to do something that we haven’t done yet? It may be time to go out into the vineyard.