

Gospel Reflection

Years ago, a television commercial showed a man driving his car on a rainy night. The man, who looks as though he's had a rough day and just wants to get home, comes across an elderly couple with a flat tire on the side of the road. The man drives past the disabled car, then stops. He can do the right thing – change the flat tire for the couple – and get drenched in the process, or he can keep on going. The expression on his face sums up his torn feelings. He looks as though he wishes he hadn't seen the couple at all. But he has seen them, and in the end, he climbs out of his car to help.

It's all about choice, isn't it? Generally, we know what's right and what's wrong. We know the virtuous path. The trouble is, the other path is usually the easier and more expedient one, and often, perhaps, it is our first choice. For those of us who struggle with such choices, what a great Gospel reading! And how comforting it is if – as we do our part in building up the reign of God – we can see ourselves more often than not like the first son, the son who said “no” but then “yes!”

Our choices are our own, and the Lord says that we shall live or die by them. Paul counsels us to choose wisely by taking on the values and attitude of Jesus. The prostitutes and the tax collectors? Yes, they made some bad choices. But when John called them to repentance, they changed their attitudes and came running. Not so the chief priests and the elders. If anything, they ran the other way. That man in the commercial didn't want to change the tire, but in the end, he did. If ultimately we say yes to Jesus, we can all change a whole lot more.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Matthew 21:28-32

G D D T D R N B E O C M R
 D D E D E Y J G P P X I W
 R O N V R X N I Y I G Z M
 F S G V E A N J O H N I C
 A B O F H I Y G T J J J W
 T A X C O L L E C T O R S
 H J D N I M O E N X W M N
 E W N M K U O E B I F N Q
 R V H S S R E D L E V Q O
 L O R N Y R O L G R B U O
 E P E O N M G W W N R Q E
 H S T S E I R P F E I H C
 S V F S C L M S Z L Q K C

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

BELIEVE	CHANGE	CHIEF PRIESTS
ELDERS	FATHER	KINGDOM OF GOD
JOHN	MIND	RIGHTEOUSNESS
OPINION	SONS	TAX COLLECTORS
WORK	WILL	VINEYARD

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9/28/2008*

*Matthew 21:28-32
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

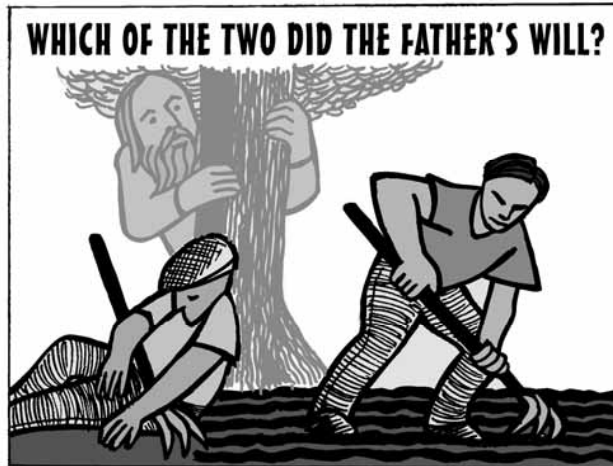
The Word of God: *Matthew 21:28-32*

The Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards **changed his mind** and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go.

"Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in **the way of righteousness**, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet **even when you saw that**, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

"changed his mind": This phrase reinforces a theme that runs throughout the whole Gospel of Matthew – the important distinction between words and deeds.

"way of righteousness": This phrase has several possible meanings. It could mean that John the Baptist taught righteousness to others, that he himself was righteous, or that he had a special part to play in God's plan for salvation.

"even when you saw that": The chief priests are shown here as unable to learn from the example of those they considered to be unholy.



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- To what in my faith have I said, "I will not"? Do I need to reverse that choice?
- Which son am I like? In what ways?
- Who in my life has helped to teach me the "way of righteousness?"
- How do I challenge myself and others to accept the "way of righteousness?"

Closing Prayer

Father,

You show your almighty power in your mercy and forgiveness. Continue to fill us with your gifts of love. Help us to hurry towards the eternal life you promise and come to share in the joys of your kingdom.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time