

MATTHEW 21:28-32

Jesus uses mainly parables in his last year of ministry so that those who have ears to hear would understand. He has just entered Jerusalem on a donkey and is heading for the temple to overturn the tables and cast out corruption.

The scribes and Pharisees try to catch him out as His popularity grows, questioning where His authority comes from. The parable reveals the heart attitude of the learned men who had studied the scriptures looking for clues as to what the Messiah (the chosen one from heaven that would set them free) would look like.

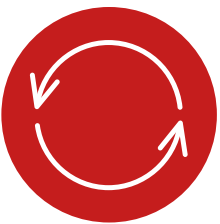
The first son rebels against his father and chooses not to obey him with an emphatic NO. Later he "changed" his mind - and this word in Greek is actually "repent". The second son said he would go, but doesn't.

Jesus asks the Pharisees, "Which of the two sons did the will of the father?" They know the answer is the first. The people who had rejected God in the past were repenting and getting baptised by John, entering into the Kingdom of God - while the Pharisees, paying lip service to God, were still trying to publicly humiliate Jesus.



01 — Pharisees and Scribes

What would you say was Jesus attitude towards the Scribes and Pharisees? Why did Jesus seem to be so direct with them?



02 — Decision making

Can you think of a time when you needed to repent or change your mind on something you had made a clear decision on previously? What made you change your mind?



03 — The two sons

When you look at the example of the two sons, are there any attitudes that you identify with?



04 — Practising what (Clare) preaches

What things do you recognise in your own heart attitude that might need to change, as you read this parable?

