

Rev. Thomas Emery
“Not Promises, But Action” Matthew 21:28-32
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 28, 2014

Jesus told the religious officials a parable. A farmer had two sons. The father went to his first son and said, "Go and work in the vineyard today." The son was somewhat rebellious. He replied, "I will not." The father was disappointed, but said nothing further. The farmer then asked his second son if he would help out in the vineyard. "I go, sir!" he told his father. Any parent would be proud of such a child. With the assurance that the second son would help, the farmer went to work in another section of the vineyard.

Things didn't quite turn out the way the father expected. The first son, who answered, "I will not," changed his mind and spent the entire day working in his father's vineyard. The second son, the one who said, "I go, sir!" also had a change of mind. The second son, the one who promised to help his father, did not. Jesus asked the chief priests and the elders of the temple, "Which of the two did the will of his father?" "The first," they answered. The parable puzzled them. They never dreamed it was about them or about us.

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *Things aren't always what they seem.*

Teaching Point Two: *Sometimes we are blind to what God is doing in our mist.*

Teaching Point Three: *Have you truly made Jesus Lord of your life by doing His will?*

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

³²For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn't believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins (Matthew 21:32 NLT).

ACTION POINT

I wonder if the religious officials got the point of Jesus' parable? I wonder if you and I get the point - for the message of repentance is for us as well. Sometimes we are blind to God's actions in our life. Sometimes we are all talk and no action. Sometimes we refuse to let God break into our lives and help us make a new start by His grace. If you and I are going to be all that God has called us to be, we need to begin now. If we are going to do the things God has called us to do, we will need to do them now. Are there promises you have made that you have not kept? Are there good intentions that you have not carried out for God? We need to do them now.