



# Sermon Notes

**Sermon** The Parable of the Two Sons

**Scripture** Matthew 21: 28-32 NRSVue

**Preaching** Pastor John Tittle

**Date** August 17, 2025

## Discussion Questions

1. To quote Jesus, "what do you think" of the parable?
2. The father takes the initiative and approaches both sons. What does he ask each son to do?
3. Take a careful look at the response and action of the first son. What do you notice?
4. Take a careful look at the response and action of the second son. What do you notice?
5. Who does the father represent? The first son? The second son?  
Is saying to Jesus, "Lord, Lord" enough to enter the kingdom of heaven? What must one do to enter the kingdom of heaven according to Jesus? (see Matthew 7: 21)
6. Some scholars say that neither son is the best example of the life of faith. What would be the best way to respond to the father?
7. How does this parable illustrate that "the last will be first"?
8. What do you think "the will of the father" is?
9. What are some particular dangers for Christian leaders and experts?
10. What is "the way of righteousness" that John the Baptist came into?
11. What are the similarities of John the Baptist's ministry and Jesus' ministry?
12. What does it mean to "change your mind"? To "believe"?
13. Do you think the tax-collectors and prostitutes changed their way of life after believing? If they did, why are they still called tax-collectors and prostitutes?
14. Jesus says that the believing tax-collectors and prostitutes are "going ahead" of the religious leaders into the kingdom of God. Are the religious leaders entering the kingdom last or are they not going at all?
15. What do you think of this ancient saying of the rabbis: The righteous say little and do much. The godless say much and do little.