

## **Week 3 – The Parable of the Two Sons (Review)**

### **Day 1: Parable Review**

#### **Read Matthew 21:28-32**

1. What did you learn from the teaching last night (if you didn't hear the message, listen to it online at [trinitygrace.org](http://trinitygrace.org))?
  
2. Does the first son gain the kingdom *primarily* because of his eventual obedience? Why or why not?
  
3. There isn't a son that that both responds well and is obedient. What does that tell you about our true nature?

### **Day 2: Old Testament Parallels**

#### **Read Isaiah 5:1-7, Isaiah 29:13, Ezekiel 33:30-33**

1. One picture we are given in the Isaiah 5 passage is that of the hard work involved in creating and maintaining a vineyard. Additionally, vineyard owners and their families were usually well off and left the work to hired hands. How does this additional information enhance our understanding of the parable and what the father asked of his sons?
  
2. How does the Isaiah 29 passage relate to the parable?
  
3. How does the Ezekiel passage relate to the parable?

### **Day 3: Faith & Works**

#### **Read Matthew 21:28-32, James 2**

1. Did the first son show love for his father by his actions? Explain.
2. Did the second son show show love for his father by his actions? Explain.
3. Jesus seamlessly moves from the actions of the sons to the belief / unbelief of his audience. Compare this to what James says about faith and works in the passage you read.
4. James 2 has often been improperly used to show that we are justified by works along with faith, especially when verse 24 is taken out of context. Yet in this parable, Jesus gives us an excellent picture of what James is really saying. Describe the unity between these two passages and the relationship between faith and works. Give other scripture to support your answer (hint: we read one supporting passage last week).

### **Day 4: Judgement**

#### **Read Matthew 21:12-17, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-48, John 2:13-22**

1. Describe the differences between the cleansing of the temple in John and the passages from the Synoptics (because of these differences, some scholars believe that these are two different instances of the cleansing of the temple; one that is early in Jesus's ministry which serves as a warning, and the other in the last week of Jesus's life where He purposefully pronounces judgement).
2. How is the cleansing of the temple in the Synoptics similar to the Parable of the Two sons? In what ways do they both pronounce judgement on the Jewish religious establishment and leadership?

### **Read 2 Samuel 12:1-10**

3. Both parables, The Two Sons and the one in 2 Samuel, are called *juridical parables* because of the judgement that is involved, and, more specifically, how the hearers respond to a question correctly which causes them to condemn themselves. For each parable, what question does the parable's audience respond to and how is it self-condemning?

### **Day 5: Conclusion**

#### **Read Matthew 21:28-32**

1. How is Jesus inaugurating His kingdom through this parable?
2. Review your answer to last week's Day 4 Question 1. Has your understanding of this parable changed? Deepened? How?
3. What other new things have you learned from this parable? Is there anything that stands out or has changed or improved your faith?
4. Are your actions, the fruit of your life, consistent with the faith you profess? If not, what needs to change for this to happen?