

Citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven do what the Bible commands, with the help and grace of God.

Story Time with Jesus

Lesson Six

The Parable of the Two Sons

Name: _____

One day, Jesus was talking to the priests and elders of Jerusalem. He told them a story about two sons. A father asked his first son to go and work in the vineyard. The first son said, "No." Later, he changed his mind and did what his father asked.

The father asked the second son to go work in the vineyard. The second son said, "I will," but then he did not do what his father asked. Jesus asked the priests and elders who obeyed, and they said, "the first son."

Mathew 21:28-32

28 "But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' 29 The son answered, 'No, I won't go,' but later he changed his mind and went anyway.

30 Then the father told the other son, 'You go,' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But he didn't go.

31 "Which of the two obeyed his father?"

They (the priests and elders) replied, "The first." Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. 32 For 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."

Jesus said that the priests and elders were like the second son. They looked like they followed God, but they really didn't. Jesus said the tax collectors and prostitutes, who everyone thought were the worst sinners, would go to Heaven because they repented and obeyed God.

We are like the sinners who didn't start out following God. But when we believe in God and love him, he gives us salvation as a free gift. We show God that we love him and believe in him when we obey his commandments. Jesus sums up the commandments when he tells us to love God with everything we are, and to love our neighbors like ourselves. God gives us the grace we need to do our best to follow him.