

GOSPEL MEDITATION -
ENCOURAGE DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 27, 2026
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary
Time
Matthew 21:28 32

This Sunday, Jesus tells a short, uncomfortable story. A father asks two sons to go work in the vineyard. One says no, but later goes. The other says yes, but never shows up. It is a parable so simple, we almost miss how sharp it is. Jesus is clear about who it is for. This is not aimed at pagans or outsiders. It is aimed squarely at religious people, people who know the right words and sound obedient.

Jesus is not condemning unbelief so much as disobedience. The polite hypocrisy that says the right things while quietly resisting the Father's will. St. John Chrysostom put it bluntly, "Not words, but deeds, are what God requires. Nothing so exasperates Him as insincere obedience, while nothing so delights Him as repentance."

Every disciple must face that mirror. Do I publicly profess faith in Christ while privately resisting what He asks of me? It is easy to say, I believe in God in my heart. But if faith never becomes action, it slowly becomes an illusion.

Jesus does not expose hypocrisy to shame us. He reveals it to heal us. He wants our hearts and our deeds to speak the same word, to let our yes truly mean yes. Like the second son who initially refused but afterwards changed his mind and went, Jesus invites us to step into the Father's will, however late, however imperfectly.

Challenge: Where are your public faith and private obedience divided? Where do you say, I will go, but never enter the vineyard? Go, get to work, even if it is late. The Father's vineyard is still open.

— Father John Muir

