



Day 1

- Matthew 21:28-32

TWO SONS, ONLY ONE OBEYS

Here we have a short and succinct parable that challenges us to make sure our words and intentions match up with our actions. Too often in our lives as Christians we can use all of the right words in public but not follow through on those actions in private.

The life of a Christian isn't just in our words, just in our minds, just in our heart, or just in our actions. It's found in bringing all of those into unity to learn, obey, and teach others about Jesus.

If your internal intentions and external actions aren't lining up, don't hide behind phrases such as "nobody's perfect," "I'm not perfect, just forgiven," and the king of them all "only God can judge me!" Instead, repent of your pride, cry out for grace and mercy to be transformed, and allow yourself to be disciplined so your internal and external can both glorify God.

Day 2

- Luke 18:1-8

THE PERSISTENT WIDOW AND UNJUST JUDGE

The first verse provides the main lesson we should take from this parable: always pray and never give up!

In a world of instant everything, we can become frustrated when God doesn't answer our prayers immediately and in our timing. However, we must not be discouraged and should continue to cry out to

Him!

Additionally, we should be confident in the justice of God. If even the unjust judge eventually grants justice, how much more will a righteous God bring justice in every situation?

Do not be discouraged when you don't see things happening in the timing you expected; pray continually and trust in God's goodness!

Day 3

- Luke 18:9-14

PHARISEE AND TAX COLLECTOR

Again Jesus challenges us to ask where our confidence in our righteousness comes from--Christ or our self-control?

It's important to note that our actions are important, and Godly living, not just Godly thinking, is something a disciple is continually working towards, a process called sanctification. But those actions do not save us; they should be done as a result of our salvation. Our confidence is never in our actions to save us, but in Christ and Christ alone. Our new actions come as a response to the undeserved love and forgiveness of Jesus, not to earn or keep His love.

When you come to Christ today, are you coming in confident pride of how well you've kept the law, or in humility of how you cannot be righteous outside of Christ? Is your soul puffed up from good actions, or humbled at the love of Christ overcoming all of your failings to love and reconcile you to Himself?

Day 4

- Luke 19:11-27
- Matthew 25:14-30

THE TALENTS

The question isn't how much you have, it's what you're doing with what you have! In this parable the servants aren't responsible for how many talents they're initially given; they're responsible for what they do with those talents.

What talents, gifts, passions, open doors, etc., has God given you? What are you doing with them? Are you

waiting for more doors to be opened, more money, more people, more need before doing anything with it? Are you frozen in fear of what might happen if you screw up and everything doesn't turn out perfectly?

God is a good father; he isn't mad when His children step out in faith to use the gifts and talents He's given them for Kingdom purposes. His correction comes when we wait, either because of fear or desire for more, and end up doing nothing! Don't let the talents God's given you go to waste today--step up and use them for the Kingdom of God!

Day 5

- Luke 20:9-19
- Matthew 21:33-46
- Mark 12:1-12

EVIL FARMERS

Like so many others, the parable is primarily about our response. Will we respond to the claims God has on our lives? Or do we reject His messengers in favor of our will, our agenda? Do we live productively, working to "produce fruits" for God in response to Him blessing us with the privilege to serve Him? The parable reminds us of the privilege of living in covenant relation with God, but that privilege always brings with it responsibility.

It's also crucial to ask how we respond to the messengers of God in our lives. While God may speak to us through angels, dreams, or visions, throughout history His primary method of communication has been through people. God's people constantly rejected the prophets in favor of their own understanding and desires, and we can tend to reject the people around us who are speaking God's truth into our lives for the same reasons. Friends, family, church members, and church leaders are not called to endorse and encourage whatever behavior we take on to be appropriate. No, if they truly love Jesus and love us, they will confront and correct us so we can be more like Christ.

So how do you respond when God attempts to encourage or correct you through others, through the Holy Spirit, or through His word? Are you humble and receptive, carefully considering their words? Or are you stubborn and inflexible, set like stone in your ways?