A Parable of Two Sons — No. 1
Matt. 21:28-32

Introduction:
   2. Both important lessons for Christians.
B. This parable contrasts Jews with publicans and harlots. (vv. 31-32)
   1. Many Jews had said, “I go”, but went not.
   2. Many publicans and harlots had repented and gone.
C. This parable teaches four great principles about life in the kingdom of God:

Discussion:
I. There Is Work to Be Done — “Son, go, work today.”
   A. God expects his children to work. (1 Cor. 15:58).
      1. There is worshiping to be done. (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42).
      2. There is teaching and preaching to be done. (Acts 8:4; Acts 20:20; 2 Tim. 2:2).
      3. There is other service to be rendered. (Jas. 1:27; Matt. 25:41-43).
II. There Is a Proper Place to Work — “in my vineyard.”
   A. Cannot do the Lord's work in another person's vineyard. (Matt. 15:9,13,14; 7:21-23).
      1. Catholicism.
      2. Protestant denominationalism.
   B. Cannot do the Lord's work by tampering with the His vineyard. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16,17).
      1. Some try to fence in additional acreage (areas for work).
         a. Additional institutions and arrangements.
         b. Additional activities: social, recreational, etc.
      2. Some try to modify existing areas of work to fit modern concepts.
         a. Pervert various items of worship.
         b. Solos and Choral singing in worship. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
III. There Is a Commitment to Be Honored — “I go, sir, but went not.”
   A. It is not enough to promise to serve. (Jas. 1:22-25).
   B. It is not enough to just take the first steps. (Heb. 5:12-6:1).
      1. Becoming a Christian is the beginning, not the completion of our obedience.
      2. Becoming a Christian puts us into a position live a life of obedience. (Eph. 2:10).
IV. There Is Opportunity for Repentance.— “he repented and went” (KJV)
   A. A sinner does not have to remain a sinner. (Cf. 2 Pet. 3:9)
   B. A sinner outside the vineyard can repent and be baptized into the vineyard. (Acts 2:38,41).
   C. A sinner inside the vineyard can repent and be forgiven. (Acts 8:22).
   D. A penitent cannot repent and stay.

Conclusion:
A. Let each realize that he has work to do.
B. Let each realize that he has a proper place to work.
C. Let each realize that he must fulfill his commitment to God.
D. Let each realize that he can repent and turn to God.