



Daily Reflection

October 1, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 21: 28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not, '

but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,

tax collectors and prostitutes

are entering the kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness,

you did not believe him;

but tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Yet even when you saw that,

you did not later change your minds and believe him."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus' parable was a cause for rejoicing for the various and sundry sinners. However, it was a threat to the self-righteous and hypocritical religious leaders of the day. The sinners were so much like the son who refused to work for his Father but then had a change of heart. A repentant sinner who turns his/her life around is doing the will of the Heavenly Father. As Psalm 51 states so well: "A humbled, contrite Heart, Oh Lord, You will never spurn."

Food for your Journey

"Why don't you come to church with us?" my landlords asked me practically every time I saw them.

For a long time, I would smile and thank this nice, elderly couple for the invitation, and then come up with an excuse. I had seldom attended church since I left home for college, and I preferred to spend my Sundays doing an amateur radio broadcast and going horseback riding in the Hollywood Hills.

I had gone into business in Hollywood, California, in the 1940s. And this godly couple, who must have been in their 80's, were reaching out to me in probably the only way they knew. They didn't know that their feeble efforts would one day result in my receiving Christ. Their obedience in persisting with a young man from Oklahoma became one of the links to my knowing God in a personal way

In all of my millions of miles of travel to most major countries of the world during the last 49 years, I have never met a happy disobedient Christian, nor have I met an unhappy trusting, obedient Christian, no matter how difficult the circumstances.

-Bill Bright, "Living daily in God's will," The Christian and Obedience, Ccci.org/10steps/step6/living/. Retrieved April 10, 2002.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, I humbly ask You to forgive my sins and to accept my desire to turn my life around. Please give me the Grace I need to do what is right before Your eyes. Amen.