



“Which of the two did what his father wanted? - The first, they answered. - Jesus said to them, I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God ahead of you. For John (The Baptist) came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.” (Matthew 21:31-32 - NIV)

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and rule my heart in all things, for without Your help I am unable to please You; through Jesus Christ Your Son, my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



### **Order of Worship – The Common Service with L.S. – pg. 15**

- Greeting by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 227** / TLH 344 sung by the Congregation

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

**First Lesson** – Ezekiel 18:1-4; 25-32 – Repent & Live.

**PSALM OF THE DAY** Psalm 25 (C.W. pg. 74 – Sung by The Cantor)

**Second Lesson** – Philippians 2:1-11 – Christ Humbled Himself.

**Gospel Lesson** – Matthew 21:28-32 – No or Yes -?

**Nicene Creed** by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 383** / TLH 392 sung by the Congregation

**Sermon Text:** Matthew 21:31-32

Sermon Theme: Are You Willing to Share Heaven  
with Tax Collectors & Prostitutes?

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord's Prayer

**Communion Liturgy** (Liturgy - pg. 21)

*Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

**Agnus Dei** (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ's Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 312 Vss. 1 & 6** / TLH 306 sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

*Nunc Dimittis* (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 381** / TLH 374 sung by the Congregation.

## Wherever You Are, There Is God's Mission Field.

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 21:31-32

Vs. 31 – Which of the two **did** what his father wanted? – The **first**, they answered.

Jesus said to them, I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are **entering the kingdom of God** ahead of you.

Vs. 32 – For John (The Baptist) came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent - μετεμεληθητε - and believe him.

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. .  
(Matt. 24:35)

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on Holy Week, the crowds shouted:

**“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!”** (Matt. 21:9; Mk. 11:9; Lk. 19:38; Jn. 12:13)

Jesus told this Parable during Holy Week. It was during this time of Holy Week that Jesus was being watched, questioned and challenged by the Jewish religious leaders, that is, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Chief Priests, the Elders, and the Teachers of the law. (Matt. 21:23; Mk. 11:18; Mk. 11:27; Mk. 12:13; Mk. 12:18; Mk. 12:28; Mk. 14:1; Lk. 19:39; Lk. 19:47; Lk. 20:1-2; Lk. 20:19; Jn. 12:42).

It was during one of those occasions, that Jesus told this - Parable of the Two Sons.

It is a short parable of a farmer and his two sons.

The father goes to his sons, and to says:

**“Son, - τεκνον (child) go and work today in the vineyard.”**

This 1<sup>st</sup> son has a rebellious attitude and says: **“I will not.”**

Yet this first son later changed - μετεμεληθεισ- his mind and then went and worked in the vineyard of his father.

The father then went to the 2<sup>nd</sup> son and says the same thing.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> son has a fine answer: **“I will sir”** The Greek word used for sir is - Κυριε - Lord. But this second son, despite his fine outward answer, does not go to work in the vineyard of his father.

Jesus then asks those Jewish leaders who had challenged the authority of Jesus:

**“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”**

The answer is easy, and so those Jewish leaders give the correct answer: **“The FIRST”**.

Jesus then makes a comparison.

**Vs. 31 - Jesus said to them, I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.**

Jesus says to the Jewish leaders, The Tax Collectors and the Prostitutes were entering the Kingdom of God ahead of them. The Tax Collectors and the Prostitutes were the bottom of the barrel in the Jewish society.

{As recorded in the ILCW Series A Sermon Studies Book by Pastor Balge & Pastor Ehlke: pg. 316} “The Tax Collectors and the prostitutes were generally despised in Judea. They were considered to be the lowest social class, the ‘sinners’.” Religiously, they were not considered worthy of being ministered to. They were treated as a lost cause.”

The Tax Collectors and Prostitutes were looked down upon by these Jewish leaders, yet Jesus clearly and plainly states: They are entering the Kingdom of God ahead of these Jewish leaders!

When John the Baptist came preaching at the River Jordan, Scripture tells us **“The Whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to Him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.”** (Mk.1:5)

Even though ALL the people of Jerusalem went out to see John the Baptist, **“The Pharisees and Experts in the Law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they and not been baptized by John.”** (Lk. 7:30)

The Chief Priest, Experts of the Law, Pharisees and Sadducees and all those who put on a fine outward show are the 2<sup>nd</sup> son who said: **“I will Sir”** and did not go to work in the Vineyard.

While the Tax Collectors and Prostitutes, and all those who humble themselves to the Word of the Lord, Repent and are baptized are the 1<sup>st</sup> son who said, “I will not” but then went to work in the Vineyard. - μετεμεληθεισ -

Those who are heavy of heart and burdened with their sin, and guilt, and shame, and go to Jesus for forgiveness, they trust in Jesus and they are entering the Kingdom of God because of Jesus, the object of their faith.

Scripture tells us that when the Tax Collectors came to John the Baptist, they asked, **“What should we do?”** and John the Baptist told them, **“Do not collect any more than you are required to.”** (Lk. 3:12-13)

As the Lord Jesus carried out His earthly ministry, He stayed at the house of a Tax Collector named Zacchaeus. It was to Zacchaeus that Jesus said: **“Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”** (Lk. 19:1-10)

As we see the compassion of Jesus our Savior upon the sinner, Jesus also called Matthew (Levi) the Tax Collector to be one of His disciples. (Matthew 9:9-13)

Jesus was anointed by a sinful woman as He was at the home of Simon the Pharisee who had invited Jesus for a meal. It was during the meal that a sinful woman came into the house and wet the feet of Jesus with her tears, she then wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair, kissed the feet of Jesus and anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume. (Lk. 7:36-50) After Simon the Pharisee grumbled to himself, the Lord Jesus told Simon the Pharisee; **“You did not give me any water for My feet, you did not give Me a kiss, you did not put oil on My head, but look what this woman has done.”** Therefore, Jesus said to the woman whose sins He forgave, **“Your faith has saved you, go in peace.”**

Jesus sat at the well of the Samaritan woman who had 5 husbands and was living with a man who was not her husband, yet that Samaritan woman placed her faith in Jesus. (Jn. 4:1-42) Jesus gave her His time and salvation.

Jesus also has the prostitute Rahab as one of His Ancestors. (Matthew 1:5)

Then there was the woman caught in adultery by the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law. They wanted to stone her according to the Law of Moses. To this Jesus instructed the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law that those without sin were to cast the first stone. (John 8:1-11) All the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law knew their own sin, and so they were not able to cast the first stone.

Jesus then said to the woman, **“I do not condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.”**

And so, I ask you: “Are you willing to share heaven with Tax Collectors and Prostitutes?”

Are there days when you find yourself like the first son who at first says - NO - to the Lord Jesus, but then later you do what Jesus wants?

Are there days when you find yourself like the second son who at first says – YES – to the Lord Jesus, but then You do not do what Jesus wants you to do?

Thank God that it was Jesus Who went to the Cross of Calvary to bear all our sin. All the times that we say YES but rebel against Jesus, and the times that we say NO in our outward actions, but our heart is grounded on Jesus our Risen Savior, who has defeated death and the devil, made full payment for our sin, and Rose from the dead.

Thank God that the Lord Jesus will come again to rescue us from this world of sin, and grief and anger, to take us to Heaven, where there is no more tears, no more fears. Jesus The Christ is Risen! AMEN

THEME: Are You Willing To Share Heaven with Tax Collectors & Prostitutes?

**Matthew 21:28-32** – *The Parable of the Two Sons.*

28 “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to **the first** and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ 29 ”**‘I will not,**’ he answered, but later he changed - μετεμεληθεις - his mind and went. 30 “Then the father went to **the other son** and said the same thing. He answered, **‘I will, sir,**’ but he did not go. 31 “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, **the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.** 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent- μετεμεληθητε - and believe him.