

## Pick N Mix Family Activities

The sixteenth Sunday after Trinity, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The Parable of the Two Sons - Read Matthew 21.23-32

*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.*

In today's Gospel reading Jesus is questioned by the chief priests and elders. He was asked "What right have you to do these things? Who gave you this right?" In reply Jesus asks the chief priests about John the Baptist. He asked them where John's authority to baptise came from – was it from God or from human beings? The chief priests don't want to answer because they are afraid of the people who believed that John was a prophet sent from God. So Jesus responds by telling them a parable – the story of the two sons.

In this story the elder son says that he won't help his father – but he thinks better of it and he goes to do the work. The other son promises to help – but in fact does nothing.

"Actions speak louder than words". This is a phrase which is often used to praise someone who has decided to do something positive about a problem or an issue rather than ignore it. Jesus uses a parable to show that what people say and what they do may differ.

Which son did the right thing?

Have you ever behaved like these sons? Have you ever changed your mind about something when you have given the matter further thought? It is not always easy to admit that you need to change your words or actions.

The chief priests were supposed to be God's people – they appeared to be saying yes to God but in their hearts were not committed. (like the younger son in the parable).

Contrast this with the people who were supposed to be the outcasts of society (the tax collectors and prostitutes) – they heard the good news that Jesus preached, changed their lives and followed him. They were like the older son in the parable.

### Activities

Mother Theresa said "Prayer in action is love; love in action is service".

Choose two of these activities that you can do during this week to show that you are following Jesus' teachings.

- Read another parable from the Bible and think about what it means
- Send a "Thinking of You" card to someone
- Offer some help to a busy person
- Give some money to a charity
- Say a prayer each night for someone who is sad or lonely



### Prayer

Father God, help us to not just talk about following you but to show our commitment in the way we live our lives. **Amen.**