

## **DO YOU LISTEN TO YOUR FATHER AND OBEY HIM?**

In Matthew 21 Jesus tells a parable. It begins with the question, "What do you think?" In this parable Jesus tells the predicament a father was having with his two sons. Jesus said, "The father told his sons to go into the field and work." His command for the sons was to do it today, not tomorrow, not after the commercial came on, but that day. His request was that of an everyday normal chore that needed to be done, because if they wanted to eat they needed to work in the field. Here is a parable that shows a primary difference between people. It is not what sex they are, what race they are, nor has it anything to do with age. It is about obedience to their heavenly Father. As we read Jesus' parable He is putting in front of our faces a mirror. We don't respond by saying, "Oh my, look at those split ends," or "How can I get rid of those age spots?" Instead we are supposed to ask, "Am I letting the Heavenly Father be the Lord of my life?"

Have you ever read wants ads that just don't sound right, nor do they communicate what the person intends to say? Here are three such ads. "Ear ring special - have your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home." "Illiterate? Write today for free material." "Men wanted for work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel." In this parable there should be no misunderstanding about what God is trying to get across to you and me. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" One son refused to work, but then repented and did the work. The other son said "yes" but did not practice what he preached.

If the people who greeted Jesus in Jerusalem and were supposedly praising Him were in one of our churches today they might worship like this. Everything right was coming out of their mouths. They were singing the right mixture of hymns and choruses. The new video projector was showing some great video clips, and the worship team was really top notch. They were even in their favorite seats. It all looked good, and it sounded good, but the down deep sincere love for the man on the donkey was missing. The show was great, but the heart lacked obedience.

It is not a choice of who God loves more than it is about which one of the two sons the father in the parable loved the most. He loved both of his sons. God loves everyone equally, but the real question is do you love God?

*Roy Goodlet is a retired minister and a member of Murphy Church of Christ. Email him @ royfcc@yahoo.com.*