

# “Not the Talk But the Walk”

Based on Matthew 21:28-21 (NIV)

November 4, 2018

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*Matthew 21:28-29*

28 (Jesus asked) "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 his mind and went.

† In this parable, God is the father, and the two sons represent two groups of people.

† The first son represents the “sinners.”

† They were outspoken against God and religion, like the first son, but then repented.

*Matthew. 21:30* - “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

† The second son represents the “religious” people who enthusiastically said that they would follow God’s will, but then did not.

† They are the folks who talk the religious talk but don’t walk the religious walk.

*Matthew 21:31-32*

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 (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."

† Jesus is inviting me to identify myself with one of the sons.

† Which son am I most like? \_\_\_\_\_

† I, at times, want to do my own thing and not God’s will, so I figuratively tell God “I will not”.

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† God looks much more at my walk (actions) than at my talk.

- Actions of loving God.

- Actions of loving my neighbor.

**Applying Today’s Message to My Life:**

† When have I acted as the first son?

† When have I acted as the second son?

† What has God been calling me to do that I have been neglecting?

† Why have I been neglecting it?

† How about doing it this week?