

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Ezekiel 18: 25-28.

To do good or evil is one's personal choice. The one, who renounces sin, lives in the grace of God once again.

Second Reading: Philippians 2; 1-11.

St Paul calls the Philippians and all of us to unity of convictions and love. This can only take place where there is spirit of humility, that is, where people are as humble as Christ.



Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32.

It would be a great shock to us if we were to find those we consider sinners and of little worth entering the Kingdom before us. But it can happen if we do not accept the challenge to do God's will before our own.

Points for Reflection

1. **The parable of the two sons is peculiar to Matthew.** Jesus is addressing the high priests and elders, just as he had directed similar parables against the Pharisees. He wants to show those who are scandalized by his preference for *sinners* that these are actually closer to salvation, if they repent, than the people who consider themselves *just* (Mt 9: 10-13). The *sinners* have opposed God's will at first, but they have repented like the prodigal son. The *self-righteous* have professed to serve God, but without really accepting his plan of love for men made manifest in the Person and Life of Jesus. The target of the parable then, are those who close themselves against the Good News in the very name of *uprightness*. Jesus lets them know that God loves the rejected. They are capable of greater repentance and obedience than the proud and self-sufficient.
2. From today's parable we can conclude that belonging to the Kingdom of God does not depend on any *official* or *external* "yes" said to the Word of God, but only on whether or not one is genuinely open to the Word of God as it is given to him, and accepts and keeps it, and acts in accordance with it, as best as can be, in terms of the circumstances and opportunities given. That, for us Christians, means that we should never cease reminding ourselves that the name of *Christian* will profit nothing unless we are true to Jesus our Lord and to his Gospel and practise such a brotherly love as to include all, without exception or discrimination.
3. Such a brotherly love is beautifully described by St Paul in **today's Second Reading**: "*Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others*". Brotherly love is based on humility and materializes in continual acts of self-denial and generosity.

Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com)

Phone: Office hours: 27922967 (with answering machine) After office hours: 27920181 Fax: 27922967	Eucharistic Celebrations: Sundays: 9.00 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese)
Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@i-cable.com ; carlotei@gmail.com) Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Sr Mary Leung, (helping on Sundays)	Anticipated Sunday Masses Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8.00 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese)
Secretary: Miss Tse Choi Ping Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 5.30pm Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	Confessions: Sundays before Mass and during the 7.45 am Mass Weekdays on call
Parish Council Chairlady: Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 st Thursday of the month: 8.00 pm

Kids' Corner

Colour the picture based on today's Gospel reading below.

