

Father O'Connor's Homily for 27 September 2026
Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Sunday-A
Weekend Two: Homily Before Lay Witness Talk

Ezekiel 18: 25-28
Philippians 2: 1-11
Matthew 21: 28-32

Jesus loved to tell stories – parables – especially when the ending was not what His audience was expecting. And today's Gospel is one of them.

Jesus begins by saying, "A man had two sons..." And as soon as we hear that there are two kids involved, we know we are in for some high drama!

The man said to his first son, "Son, go out and work in the vineyard today." That son answered, "I will not!" But he later changed his mind and did go.

He said to his second son, "Son, go out and work in the vineyard today." And the second answered, [like Eddie Haskell on "Leave It to Beaver"], "Yes, sir!" But he never went.

Then Jesus asks, "Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first" – who had refused to go and work in the vineyard, and then later changed his mind and went, while the second had agreed to go, but never showed up.

Neither gave the ideal response. And so someone aptly entitled this parable: "The Better of Two Bad Boys."

C.S. Lewis gives us this great line: "The Christian does not think that God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us" [in **Mere Christianity**, Book 2, Chapter 5].

This means that we are good not by our own power. It is the other way around. God enables us to be good. And God even gives us the grace of conversion to change our minds for the better after we have told God "no."

Jesus told us a parable today about "The Better of Two Bad Boys."

Stewardship as a way of life is all about becoming even better disciples of Jesus each day by saying "yes" to Him and following through. Or even by changing our minds for the better after we have told Him "no."

“The Christian does not think that God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.”

And THAT is the daily hope and prayer of His faithful disciples who live their lives as grateful stewards of God’s bountiful blessings.

*(I WILL GIVE SOME INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT RETURNING
OUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARDS NEXT WEEKEND.)*

And now we will hear from a fellow parishioner, Jim Pecchio, who will share with us about his own stewardship journey.

Please turn your attention to the video screens.

*(THIS VIDEO CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR SAINT JOSEPH
PARISH WEBSITE: stjosephamherst.com)*