



# Doing God's Will

**"Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first" (Matthew 21:31).**

Bulletin VCMPJ43

03 June 2015

"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. 30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. 31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him" (Matthew 21:28-32).

Many Christians talk about God's will but only few are actually committed to doing it. Appearances can be deceptive. The way some Christians profess about God's will can make some people feel that they are living at the very centre of God's will every moment of their lives. However, careful analysis of their actions may reveal that they are very far from God's will than those who do not talk so frequently about it. We learn a lot from this teaching of Christ.

1) "Son, go work to day in my vineyard" (vs 28). The will of God is not a hidden mystery that is so elusive as not to be discernible within a lifetime of endless seeking but it is revealed in the "Word" of the master "Son, go work to day in my vineyard". Similarly, Matthew 28:18-20 "... Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost..." is God's undisputable will for all believers today. Story telling, alibis, excuse making etc has no place in doing the will of God. Will you

**"Talk is cheap, but action is the deciding factor for divine approval"**

let another day / week slip by without taking action. It is not spiritual age that matters but doing the will of God

- 2) "I will not: but afterward he repented, and went" (vs 29). He answered wrongly, but later repented. His final action, not his initial answer determined his doing the will of God. The secret to doing God's will lies in repentance and heart disposition towards the Word of God. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).
- 3) "I go, sir; and went not" (vs. 30). Religiously correct / pious (or 'Politically correct') answer is not necessarily an evidence of embracing, loving or doing the will of God. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Doing the will of God is matter of heart condition and commitment to God. Talk is cheap. Talk is not necessarily a reflection of the heart condition. Polite answer is not a reflection of an obedient attitude.
- 4) "I go, sir; and went not" (vs. 30). Outwardly right and respectful attitude is not an evidence of correct inward disposition towards the will of God. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer,

he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:22-25).

- 5) The principle for doing God's will is prompt action. Procrastination is the thief of time. Do it now, or you will never get around to doing it.
- 6) Waiting for big ventures that may never materialise and losing the many little opportunities that could add value and make significant difference is a significant cause of failing to do the will of God.
- 7) Being only a starter, but not a finisher robs one of the opportunity to do the will of God.
- 8) "Whether of them twain did the will of his father?" (vs 31) The acceptable answer to the big question does not lie in knowing, talking, apparent gesture, initial response but in repentance and deeds.
- 9) "I will not, but afterward he went" cf "I will but went not" (vs 29,30). The deed (action) not the words is the evidence of doing the will of God. You cannot fool God with words that are not matched by corresponding actions.
- 10) "I will, but went not" (vs 30). Desiring to do the will of God and talking about it is useless without actually taking action to fulfil it.
- 11) "Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him". (vs 31-32). The publicans and harlots can overtake the "mature / experienced believers" in getting

divine approval through their actions whereas the later are rejected through reliance on "experience" and empty words, without corresponding actions. Spiritual "age" and "experience" are not the same as doing the will of God. Labels don't count if you are doing the will of God. You may be called harlot, publican, etc but these means nothing in God's sight and will not hinder divine approval, if you are repentant and doing the will of God.

- 12) "... and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him" (vs 32). Failure to repent, damns the religiously experienced who lack the practical evidence of doing the will of God. Their ego, prevented them from repentance because they wanted to present an image of being better than the harlots and publicans. In God's sight, it is not the image we present nor the arguments we win that matters as much as honest / sincere repentance and the doing of the will of God. (note vs 32).
- 13) It takes heart preparation, decision, planning and courage to start to do the will of God. "For **Ezra had prepared his heart** to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" (Ezra 7:10). "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" (Luke 12:47-48).
- 14) Now is your moment of decision and action. Tomorrow might be too late! Now is the time to demonstrate an obedient heart to God.