

# Action vs Intention

*Matthew 21:28-32*

*“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in the vineyard.’ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, ‘I will, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him.*

The father calls two of his children and asked them to go to work in the vineyard. Neither of their responses were honorable. The end results were completely different than the original response. Let’s look closely at the parable and think of what our response to Jesus looks like.

1. The father gives the work order.

Grounds of the father’s command.

Matthew 21:28, 2 Corinthians 5:14, 1 John 3:10, 5:2

Desire of the father’s heart.

Proverbs 19:15, Matthew 5:16, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4

Urgency of the father’s call.

Luke 10:2, John 9:4, Ephesians 5:16, Colossians 4:5

2. The intention in the son’s reply.

Refusal

Consent

John 14:15

3. The action in the son’s work.

Regret led to obedience.

Promise faltered and failed.

Luke 6:46, Mark 7:6, 1 Corinthians 3:13, Matthew 7:21 -23, 1 Samuel 15:22