



26th Sunday Ordinary Time

1st October 2023



This Sunday's Gospel is the parable of the two sons wherein a father asks both of his sons to work in the vineyard for him. The first one refuses but eventually changes his mind and the second one agrees to work and then doesn't. Jesus asks with whom God would be most pleased.

The answer seems straightforward at first glance. The first son did the father's will. However, with a second glance, we see that both sons brought dishonour to the father, the first by his words, the second by his deeds. Neither son was in the right. One had the words, and the other had the deeds. I'm reminded of St Matthew's conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount that merely saying the right words does not ensure entry into the kingdom of heaven. Active obedience to Jesus' teachings must be present.

In today's busy and unusual world, it is quite easy to say one thing and then do another whether it's because we forget to write things on the calendar, get side-tracked or merely overwhelmed but it's important that we think about what we say to God.

To live a life of hearing and doing the will of God is to respect and adhere to Jesus' authority as teacher and Lord. To live a life in which one gives lip service but not life service to his teachings is to disrespect the authority of Jesus. Our relationship with God is very much a do as I say AND do as I do situation.

Bible Basics After the Gospels, the New Testament continues with the spreading of Jesus' message after he has ascended into heaven.

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: Jesus returns to the Father, the Holy Spirit comes to the church, and the gospel of Jesus spreads throughout the world.

ROMANS: Paul summarizes how the Gospel of Jesus works in a letter to the churches at Rome, where he plans to visit.

1 CORINTHIANS: Paul writes a disciplinary letter to a fractured church in Corinth and answers some questions that they've had about how Christians should behave.

2 CORINTHIANS: Paul writes a letter of reconciliation to the church at Corinth and clears up some concerns that they have.



God of goodness and mercy,

Support us and guide us in the coming week. Look after our loved ones and all members of society who are finding times difficult and upsetting.

Let us work together with support, friendship and love. Amen.

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." Saint Basil

In addition, this week let us pray for

- ♦ our new school community members as they continue to settle in to Springhill life;
- ♦ All those who are hungry and in need;
- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me.

John 10