

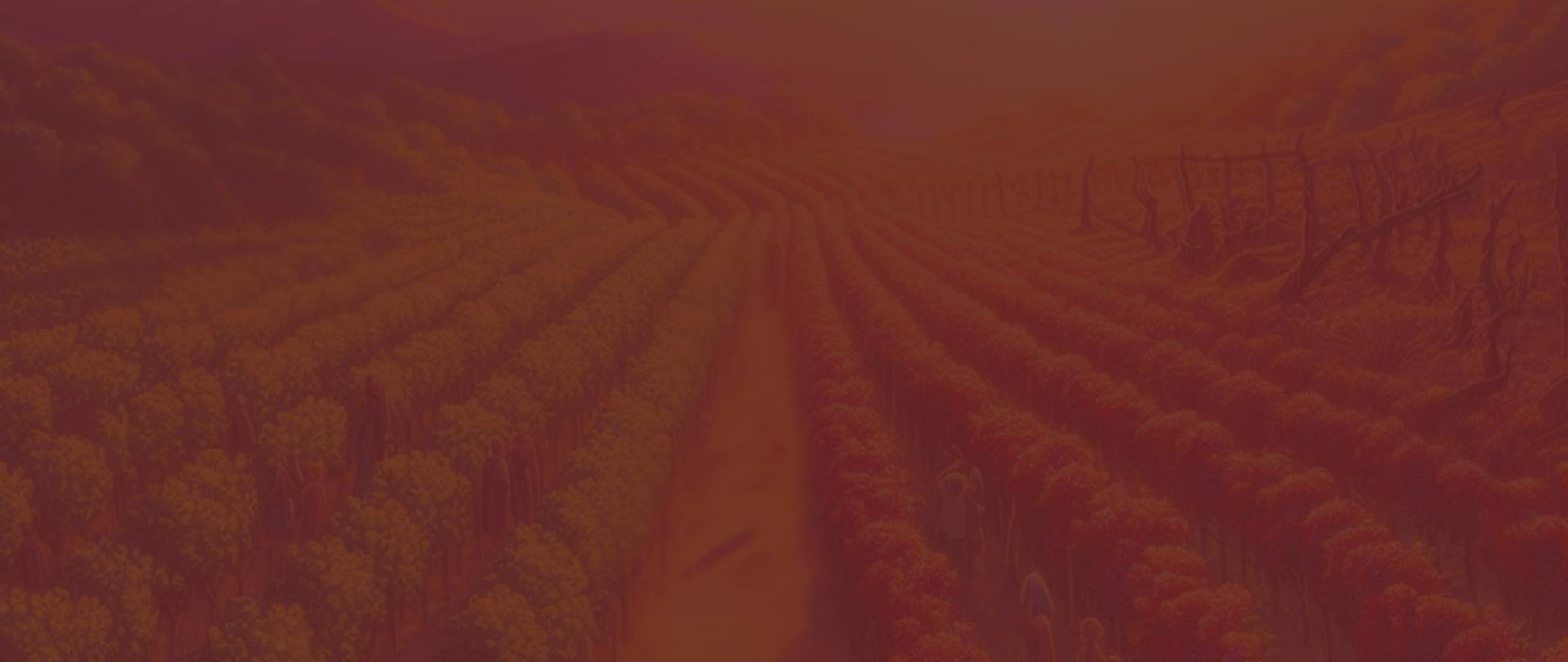


BECAUSE HE LIVES

our faith can bear fruit

THE PARABLE

- First of a group of three “parables of rejection”



**25 John's baptism—where did it come from?
Was it from heaven, or of human origin?"**

THE FATHER

²⁸ ...There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

1. The man is a Father
2. The man is owner of a vineyard

Main Parallels

1. The man who had two sons is God.
2. The vineyard stands for the world—the harvest field of God.

THE FATHER'S INVITATION

Matthew 21:28-30

²⁸ ...There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ " 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

THE FATHER'S INVITATION

1. Authoritative and Affectionate

Luke 13:34

³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your **children** together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

THE FATHER'S INVITATION

1. Authoritative and Affectionate
2. Impartial

Romans 10:12-13

¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

THE FATHER'S INVITATION

1. Authoritative and Affectionate
2. Impartial
3. Reasonable

Matthew 25:34-36

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...

THE FATHER'S INVITATION

1. Authoritative and Affectionate
2. Impartial
3. Reasonable

Romans 12:1 NKJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable service**.

THE FATHER'S INVITATION

1. Authoritative and Affectionate
2. Impartial
3. Reasonable
4. Urgent

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says,

*"In the time of my favor
I heard you,
and in the day of salvation
I helped you."*

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

THE SON

1. The first initially refuses, but eventually goes.
2. The second initially consents, but never goes.

Romans 3:10; 23

There is no one righteous, not even one;
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

“There are but two classes of persons—
both shamefully delinquent in one way or another.”

-J. B. Coffman, *Commentary on Matthew*.

THE FIRST SON'S RESPONSE

Matthew 21:28-29

²⁸ ...There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ " 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Metamelomai: to change one's mind about something, with regret.

Godly sorrow -> Repentance -> Salvation -> Fruit

THE SECOND SON'S RESPONSE

Matthew 21:30

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

- He honors the father, showing him proper respect
- He promises quick obedience

Had his heart been in the right place, those good and right words would have served as a stimulus, spurring on similarly good and right deeds.

THE SECOND SON'S RESPONSE

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

1 John 2:3

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

THE SONS

The first son promised poorly but in the end, he proved well.

The second son promised well but proved poor.

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

THE PHARISEES RESPOND

Matthew 21:32

His Question

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

Their Response

“The first,” they answered.

JESUS EXPLAINS

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Main Parallels

1. The man who had two sons is God.
2. The vineyard stands for the world—the harvest field of God.
3. The first son represents the tax collectors and the prostitutes.
4. The second son represents the self-righteous religious leaders.

JESUS EXPLAINS

Matthew 3:5-6

People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

➤ How could an unrighteous son follow the way of righteousness?

By hearing John's call,
believing,
repenting,
and being washed (baptized).