

Two Sons

Storyteller (picks up the Parable Box): I think I recognize this. Do you?

Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus had gone into the temple and was teaching when the chief priests and the leaders of the people came up to him. They asked, "What right do you have to do these things? Who gave you this authority?"

Jesus answered, "I have just one question to ask you. If you answer it, I will tell you where I got the right to do these things. Who gave John the right to baptize? Was it God in heaven or merely some human being?"

They thought it over and said to each other, "We can't say that God gave John this right. Jesus will ask us why we didn't believe John. On the other hand, these people think that John was a prophet, and we are afraid of what they might do to us. That's why we can't say that it was merely some human who gave John the right to baptize." So they told Jesus, "We don't know."

Jesus said, "Then I won't tell you who gave me the right to do what I do."

Jesus said: "I will tell you a story about a man who had two sons. Then you can tell me what you think. The father went to the older son and said, 'Go work in the vineyard today!' His son told him that he would not do it, but later he changed his mind and went. The man then told his younger son to go work in the vineyard. The boy said he would, but he didn't go. Which one of the sons obeyed his father?"

"The older one," the chief priests and leaders answered.

Then Jesus told them: "You can be sure that tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will! When John the Baptist showed you how to do right, you would not believe him. But these evil people did believe. And even when you saw what they did, you still would not change your minds and believe."

It is the colour gold. Something inside must be precious like gold. Perhaps there is a parable inside. Parables are even more precious than gold.

It is closed. *Knock on the lid.* It has a lid. Perhaps there is a parable inside. Parables are closed; they need to be opened up so we can see what is in them.

The box looks like a present. Parables were given to us long ago as presents. Even if you don't know what a parable is, the parable is already yours. Shall we open it? Let's look inside.

In turn, take out the sun, the vines, and the denarii. Show them to the children and wonder what they are. Put the vines up on the left side of the flannel board.

Storyteller: Jesus said,

A man had two sons. *Put the figures of the father and the two sons in the middle of the flannel board.*

The man said to his first son, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." "No, I don't want to!" he replied. *Move the figure of the son away from the father in the opposite direction from the vines.* But then, he changed his mind and went. *Move the first son over to the vineyard.*

The man said to his second son, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." "Yes, sir!" he replied. *Move the figure of the son halfway toward the vines.* But he didn't go. *Move the second son to the far side of the board across from the vineyard.*

Jesus told this story to the important people in charge of the temple. Then he asked them "Which one of these did his father's will?"

Story Materials

Parable Box**

Felt figures:

sun

Master and 2 sons

vines