



First Reading: (*Ezek 18:25-28*) The word of the Lord was addressed to me in this way, "You say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it; for the iniquity which he has committed he shall die. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ps 24:4-9

R./ Remember your mercy, Lord.

Second Reading: (*Phil 2:1-11*)

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full

accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel: (*Mt 21:28-32*) Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of people, "What do you think? A man



THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS

Matthew 21:28-32

had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but 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, the tax collectors and the harlots go 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 the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

Reflection: "If following Jesus has made any difference in your life then be of the same mind". St Paul makes an appeal for unity in the following words, "I beg you to complete my joy." Paul's joy will be completed only when Christians live in unity and that unity is possible only through humility, love and service. Consider others better than yourselves. Look for the potential in others and see the goodness in others. When it is difficult to consider others as equal to ourselves, the new commandment is to consider others even better than oneself. This definitely requires humility and the mind of Christ.

The father in the story gives the same command to both his sons. The first one said "I will not go." It is an outright refusal to obey the father, but then he repented and the fruit of his repentance is – he went to work. The second son made a good promise, but he failed to carry out the command of the father. Neither of them was the kind of sons that the father would expect them to be. The right thing would have been to accept the command of the father and do it willingly. The repentance of the first son does not justify his refusal and neither the good response given by the second son approves his failure to carry out the duty asked of him. **We profess our faith in Christ not just by hearing his word and saying 'yes' or 'no' to it but by fulfilling it.** We hear the word of God daily and accept it with a good disposition. But do we work on it? **We are called to be hearers and doers of God's Word.** And this is what St Paul is asking the Christians to do.