

28"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 29'l will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 30Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. 31Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you."

— Matthew 21:28–31 (NIV)



HOOK



Start the conversation by saying...

What's the fanciest event that you've ever received an invitation for? How did you feel?

ENGAGE



Go deeper with this...

Have you ever turned down an invitation? What happened?

LINK



Connect to God's truth by sharing...

- The reality of the kingdom of heaven is that some are accepted and some are rejected.
- These are some wrong responses people have to the kingdom:
 - Pretend obedience
 - Wanting the abundant life Jesus brings, but not wanting Jesus
 - Thinking we can get into the kingdom on our own
 - Taking God's invitation for granted
- Rejecting the invitation is rejecting the king who gave it.
- The kingdom of heaven is for those who repent, love Jesus, and receive His invitation gladly and gratefully.
- Ultimately, to enter God's kingdom, we need to be clothed with God's righteousness, not our own good works.

PAUSE

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Pick a question and pray together...

Discuss Together

 What are some wrong responses we might have when we accept Jesus' invitation? (Avoiding hell; false repentance; wanting to be saved without the obedience part.) Have you ever responded in the wrong way?

Pray Together (pick one)

- Pray for true remorse and repentance as we go to God with our imperfections. Pray to be refreshed and fall in love with Jesus again.
- Pray for God's grace to truly and humbly accept His invitation with the right heart.
 Pray to be robed in God's righteousness.



37"Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him."

— Matthew 21:37-39 (NIV)