Sermon: **Which one of the two did what his father wanted?** (Matthew 21.31)

Well actually neither did! They both defied their father - one by his words, the other by his actions.

Which son would you prefer? Probably the one who *did* the right thing.

Jesus, in this story, was comparing the religious authorities of his day with the so-called outcasts.

The former, who said all the right godly things, took no notice of God’s messenger (John);   
whereas the latter, who often said the wrong godly things, took every notice of God’s messenger.

What was God’s messenger expecting everyone to do? Not work in the vineyard, but in the Kingdom.

Is this criticism one which Jesus could level at us today?

I guess most of us would say all the right godly things, especially within the fellowship – we sing hymns, we make promises, we take our turn in various church activities. But how much notice do we take of the call of the Kingdom outside these walls?

Is it possible that out there in our community there are those who have nothing to do with churchy speech and activities but even so practice the Kingdom in their neighbourhoods?

If so, TEXT.

So all this means that we need to seek ways to ensure the Kingdom is real not just in church but in the community. And not to become complacent because we have done one or two good things ‘out there’ as though that should be enough to get God off our backs. It is a continual search.

This is a call not just to the church but in particular today to you, Frank and Shay. You have been gifted with God’s love, directly from God and through this church. It is your responsibility to discover where God calls you to live out that love within the church and within the community. These good people are here to help you, and we also need you to help us. As Jacinda Ahern might say: Let’s do this!