

26th SUNDAY A 2008
Matt 21:28-32
Which of the two
did his Father's will?

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE NEW BACKTOP PARKING LOT?

IT LOOKS GOOD..... ON TOP.

SO DID THE ONE SON WHO SAID..... "I WILL GO AND WORK".

HE LOOKED GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE, DIDN'T HE?

BUT INSIDE THERE WAS A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE.

I ASKED A PERSON WHO WORKS WITH BLACKTOP TO EXPLAIN TO ME

WHAT I SHOULD LOOK FOR IN KNOWING HOW WELL A JOB IS DONE.

HE TOOK THE TIME TO WALK ME AROUND THE BLACKTOP

AND POINT OUT THE WEAKNESS IN OUR LOT

AND WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE

TO TRULY CORRECT THEM

AND NOT JUST PAVE OVER THEM.

IF THEY JUST PAVED OVER THEM

WITHOUT FIXING THEM

THEN THE BLACKTOP WOULD NOT LAST

AS LONG.AS IT COULD LAST.

HE POINTED OUT AREAS THAT WERE LOW AND COLLECTED WATER.

HE SHOWED ME AREAS WHERE THE MATERIAL HAD

HE CALLED IT, "MARBALIZED".

IT WAS AN INDICATION THAT THE BACKTOP

WAS BREAKING UP AND DETERIORATING.

IT WAS WEAKER THEN THE SURROUNDING MATERIAL.
HE WENT ON TO TELL ME THAT IF THE JOB WAS GOING TO BE DONE WELL,
THEN THOSE LOW SPOTS AND MARBELIZED AREAS
HAD TO FIRST BE CHIZZLED OUT AND REPAIRED
TO MAKE IT A FIRM FOUNDATION AGAIN.
THEN THE BLACKTOP COULD BE PLACED ON IT
AND WE WOULD HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE JOB.
MENTALLY I MARKED OUT THOSE AREAS
THAT WOULD FIRST NEED TO BE REPAIRED
BEFORE THEY WOULD START PAVING THE LOT.
MONDAY NIGHT WHEN I CAME BACK TO THE RECTORY
I WALKED THE PARKING LOT
AND SAW WHERE THEY HAD TAKEN THE TIME
TO PREPARE THESE EXACT AREAS,
PLUS A FEW MORE.
IN FACT IT TOOK TWO AND A HALF DAYS
FOR THEM TO DO ALL THE PREPARATION WORK.
THEN, WHEN THAT WAS ALL DONE
LAYING THE BLACKTOP WAS A PIECE OF CAKE.
WHAT LIES UNDERNEATH,
WHAT MAKES UP THE CORE
IS WHAT WAS MOST IMPORTANT.
JESUS, TODAY, TELLS US THAT ALSO GOES FOR HUMANS TOO.

WHAT IS AT OUR HEART,

OUR CORE,

AND NOT JUST THE OUTSIDE

WHAT WE SAY,

MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS I WILL BE WRITING TO YOU

ABOUT OUR CORE

OUR ATTITUDE

ABOUT WHAT IS AT THE CENTER OF OUR HEART.

FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS YOU WILL BE RECEIVING LETTERS

INVITING YOU TO THINK

MORE ABOUT OUR INSIDE THAN OUR OUTSIDE.

FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS I WILL BE ASKING YOU TO THINK AGAIN

ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD

BY THINKING ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE

TOWARD STEWARDSHIP.

THIS TRULY IS GOD'S WORLD.

AND STEWARDSHIP MEANS UNDERSTANDING THAT

AND USING WHO WE ARE,

WHAT WE HAVE,

AND WHAT WE DO

TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION FOR WHICH WE WERE SENT.

IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF THE SECOND SON
THEN IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO BEGIN
WITH A FIRM AND HONEST FOUNDATION
WITH A GOOD UNDERSTANDING AND ATTITUDE
OF ALL THAT YOU AND I HAVE AND POSSESS.

THE ATTITUDE,

UPON WHICH WE ARE TO FULFILL OUR DESTINY
IS THAT EVERYTHING YOU AND I MAY CALL
OUR OWN,

ACTUALLY WAS GIVEN TO US BY GOD

GOD OWNS IT ALL:

OUR LAND, PROPERTY, INCOME, OUR LIFE.

THIS IS GOD'S WORLD

WHEN YOU AND I UNDERSTAND THIS

THEN WHEN WE GIVE A PORTION OF OUR MONEY
OF OUR TIME

OF OUR TALENT

WE ARE ONLY SETTING APART FOR GOD'S USE

A PORTION OF THE GIFTS

THAT HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO US BY GOD.

THE PERSON WHO GIVES SACRIFICIALLY

DOES SO BECAUSE HE OR SHE KNOWS

WHOSE WORLD THIS IS!

WITH THIS AWARENESS

COMES THE CHANGE OF HEART

ABOUT GIVING AND SHARING

AND GOING INTO THE VINYARD.

I ASK YOU TO ACCEPT MY LETTERS AND TO READ THEM

AS THEY WERE WRITTEN.

TO HELP US PUT GOD FIRST.

WHEN WE GET THAT RIGHT

EVERYTHING ELSE WILL FALL INTO PLACE.

THEN WHEN YOU AND I DRIVE ON OUR PARKING LOT

TO COME TO CHURCH

WE WILL KNOW

THAT BOTH OUR PARKING LOT

AND OUR LIVES

ARE BUILT ON A FIRM FOUNDATION.