



Liturgy Cycle A

Twenty-Sixth Sunday Of The Year

The Two Sons

Introduction

Today's liturgy talks about the freedom we have to say 'yes' or 'no' to God. But it also talks about the possibility of change. Through our sinfulness our initial 'yes' could become 'no'. But then, through God's grace, an initial 'no' could become a 'yes'.

First reading (Ezekiel 18:25-28)

Each of us is responsible for our conduct. The good person who falls away will have to answer for it. The evil person who repents will win pardon and life.

Second Reading (Philippians 2:1-5)

Self seeking and rivalry have no place in the Christian community. Christ came on earth to give us an example of humility, which should imitate.

Gospel (Matthew 23:28-32)

In a nutshell this says: actions speak louder than words.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray for the grace to be faithful to the 'yes' we have given to God, and for the courage to correct our compass if necessary.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the followers of Christ may never become complacent, but may be always open to change and conversion. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our political and civil leaders: that they may realize that there is no joy, no growth, except in the fulfillment of their obligations. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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For all those who are the victims of broken promises, and who have been very badly hurt. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may never be satisfied to allow words to take the place of deeds in our following of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

It is possible to be a follower of Christ without being a disciple.

It means that one is a camp-follower, without being the soldier of the king.

One is not pulling one's weight, or playing one's part.

One is simply a hanger-on in a great work.

One is a talker not a doer.

Once someone approached a famous professor about a young man, and asked:

'So and so tells me that he was one of your students. Is that correct?'

To which the professor replied:

'That man did indeed attend my lectures, but believe me he was never a real student of mine.'

It is one of the supreme handicaps of the Church that in it there are many people who follow Christ at a safe distance, but very few disciples, that is, people who actually do what he said.