

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 15

Response: “We will live with you, O God; we will live forever.”

Today’s readings focus on the mercy of God for sinners.

- **God always allows us the freedom and opportunity to change.**
- **God is interested in the final option we choose.**
- **God does not hold past sins against us.**

Summary of the Readings:

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28 (*This is a reading from the prophet Ezekiel.*)

In today’s first reading, Ezekiel shares with us God’s mercy for sinners. When we turn away from God and sin, we are punished. But when we are sorry for our sins, change our lives, and do what is right we are not punished. We are saved.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:28-32 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel readings of late we have heard many of Jesus’ parables. In past weeks Jesus has been telling his parables to his disciples. This week he is speaking to the chief priests and the leaders of the people. He says he will tell them a story. Then he asks them to tell him what they think. The story is about a man and his two sons. One day he told one of his sons to go into the vineyard and work. The son answered, “No, I won’t go.” Later the son began to feel sorry about saying no to his father. He decided to go into the vineyard and work. The father then went to his second son, “Son, I want you to go out and work in the field today.” The second son replied, “Yes, father, I will go and work, ‘but he did not go.” Jesus then asked the leaders, which boy did what the father wanted him to do? The leaders responded the first.

Jesus told them, people whom you look down on as sinners will enter the reign of God before you. When John the Baptist came and preached the truth, you did not believe him. Those you looked down on as sinners did believe him and changed their lives. Even after you saw they had changed you still did not believe and change your lives.

Helping the Children to Reflect:

“Can I have a do over?” How many times have we said something and wanted to take it back? Promised we would do something and did not? It is disappointing when we say we will do something, and we do not.

There are certain things God wants us to do. Like good daughters and sons, we do not always respond immediately in the best way, but we can always do better. Jesus was showing us that the attitude of the chief priests and leaders was that they were better than other people. Jesus was praising those who were sinners but believed in him and changed their lives. God gives us do overs. He loves us and wants us to keep trying to be better. When we stumble, he picks us up, dusts us off and we try again.

- **Talk with your child about things that happened during your week that you wish you could have a “Do Over”. Maybe they would like to share some with you. Remind them that God loves us and wants us to keep trying to do our best.**

“Change your lives and believe in me!”