

Film: *Beyond Beautiful*
Parable: The Two Sons
Scripture: Matt 21:28-32

Interpreting *Beyond Beautiful*

Our relationship with God is a love story. In the parable, the son who pleased the father went to work in the vineyard. Yes, God wants us to work in the “vineyard” and that could mean many things. This short film illustrates that the work (Charlie’s decision to go on the blind date) is only part of the story. The rest of the story is Charlie’s reward for doing the difficult thing. The reward for such work is a relationship with God... the best kind of romance.

Cultural Background

Jesus told a story about 2 sons – one who was a joy in the morning, but a disaster at midnight, and another who was a pain in the rear at sunup, but a surprising source of pride at sundown. He wanted to highlight the difference between those who talk a big faith game, and those who in humility actually live it out. Jesus’ critics pilloried him for neglecting the big shots in the synagogue, while cow-towing to “sinners and tax-collectors”. He wanted them to know that God is not impressed by big talk, He is impressed by diligence- showing up. He can wait until day’s end to see whether or not a person is sincere.



When Jesus proclaimed the arrival of the Kingdom of God – the scribes and the Pharisees (who claimed zeal for it’s arrival) were NO-SHOWS! Hookers and beer-guzzlers, on the other hand, made a B-line for the offer of free grace. Jesus was challenging them, as he challenges you & I – which son was a source of pride to his dad at the end of the day?

Discussion Questions

- 1) How common is it for people to claim faith, but fail to live it out?
 - 2) How do I justify my inactivity in light of my faith profession?
 - 3) Will the kingdom be populated with “church folks” or with “roughians”? how will God judge at the end of the day ?
 - 4) What is the task that the Father wants us to show up for ?
-

Faith without works...

James wrote:

2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.



Discussion Questions

- 1) How do we balance faith and works? Can we be a combo of these 2 brothers?
 - 2) How is this different than – salvation by works?
-