

The Boy Who changed His Mind



Living the Good News
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time — A

One day a man went to talk to his son.

"Reuben," the man said, "go out and pick grapes today."

The son answered, "I don't want to!"

But later, Reuben changed his mind. "My father needs help," he said. "I will go out and pick the grapes." Reuben went to the vineyard. He worked hard to pick the grapes.

Then the father went to the other son. "Jesse," the father said, "go out and pick grapes today."

Jesse replied, "Yes, sir." But Jesse did not really go. Which son do you think did the right thing?

Jesus says, "We can change our minds and do the right thing, too."



Illustrations by: Helen Harrison.

We Are Changing!

What changes do you see?

Can you find a boy who can change his own shoes?

Can you find a girl who changes her mind and lets another child have a turn on the swing?

Can you find friends who change their mind and stop quarreling?

As we grow up, we can learn to make all kinds of changes!



"Which one of the two did what his father wanted?"
(Matthew 21: 31, Good News Translation)

Today your child heard the story of a son who changed his mind and did what his father wanted. Jesus told this parable to remind his listeners that those who sin and repent are closer to doing what God wants than those who pay lip service only to God. God always gives us room to change our minds and do what is right.

Children often need time to change their minds, too. Many children's first instinct is to say "no!" to even reasonable guidelines that their parents set. If we give them time to think over what needs to happen next, we may be surprised at how much easier it is to enlist their cooperation. Instead of telling a child, "We're leaving right now," try to give a little advance notice, saying, for example, "We'll be leaving for school soon. You can play until the timer rings, and then we'll have to put on our coats and go."

Illustrations by: Helen Harrison.

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