

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time- A: Actions speak louder than Words: Eze 18:25–28; Phil 2:1–11; Mat 21:28–32

The Obedient Son: A father said to his son, “Son, please clean your room.” The son replied, “Yes, Dad!” Two hours later, the room was still a mess. The father asked, “I thought you said yes!” The boy said, “Dad, I said **yes with my mouth. My body is still thinking about it!**” Sometimes our “yes” to God needs to move from our **lips to our actions**. So today, let us ask ourselves: **Am I a Christian of “yes” words or “yes” actions?**

St. Francis of Assisi once asked a brother to accompany him to preach in the town. They walked through the streets, visited the sick, helped the poor, comforted people, and then returned to their monastery. The brother finally asked, “Brother Francis, when are we going to preach?” Francis replied in substance, “We have been preaching. Our actions have been our sermon.” They had hardly spoken a word, but their **love, kindness, and service** had already preached Christ.

Sometimes our life speaks louder than our lips. We can say, **“I love God,”** but our actions must prove it. We can say, **“I forgive you,”** but our behavior must show forgiveness. We can say, **“I will serve,”** but our hands must serve. There are two types of Christians: Those who say, **“Lord, I will.”** And those who say, **“Lord, here I am.”** The first group gives God promises. The second group gives God their lives. **What kind am I?** Today Jesus places before us two sons. One has the **right words but the wrong actions**. The other has the **wrong words but eventually the right actions**. And Jesus is asking us: **Which one am I?**

Today’s liturgy of the Word invites us to examine our own lives. **First: God looks at our life today:** In the first reading, God reminds us that He is not only looking at what we said yesterday. He looks at **how we live today**. A person may have made mistakes before, but when he turns back to God and does what is right, his actions show genuine conversion. This is good news for all of us. Our past does not have to determine our future. Maybe we have said “no” to God before. Maybe we have failed. Maybe we have walked away. But God always gives us another opportunity to say **yes**.

Second: Jesus showed His Yes: In the second reading, St. Paul gives us the greatest example. Jesus did not simply say, **“I love you.”** He showed His love. He humbled Himself. He became obedient. He accepted the cross. He gave His life for us. That is the Christian life: **Less pride, more humility. Less self-interest, more service. Less talking, more doing.** Jesus’ “yes” was not merely spoken. **Jesus’ yes had a cross.** And our yes to God must also become visible in the way we live.

Third: Actions reveal the heart: In the Gospel, the first son said no, but later went and worked. The second son said yes, but did nothing. Jesus teaches us that God is not impressed merely by our beautiful promises. God looks for a life that actually **does His will**.

So what is our key takeaway today? 1. Let your Yes have feet: God is not looking merely for a yes from our lips. He wants a yes with our **feet**. Our faith becomes meaningful when our words are translated into **love, service, forgiveness, and sacrifice**. St. Francis reminds us that we preach the Gospel not only with words, but with our lives. A Christian should not only say, **“I believe.”** A Christian should **show it** by the way he or she lives. **My faith must be seen in what I do.**

2. A delayed Yes is better than a permanent No: The first son initially said no, but later changed his mind and went to work. This teaches us something beautiful: **It is never too late to change**. It is never too late to return. It is never too late to begin again. As St. Augustine’s life reminds us, conversion may take time, but God patiently waits for our yes. Perhaps someone here today needs to hear this: **Your past is not the end of your story**. God is still calling. God is still waiting. God is still giving you another opportunity.

3. Actions reveal the heart: Words can impress people. But actions reveal who we really are. Jesus says in Matthew 7:21: **“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom, but the one who does the will of my Father.”** Our families need less promises and more practical love. Our communities need less talking and more service. Our Church needs Christians whose faith can be **seen**. So today, let us not simply say: **“Lord, I will.”** Let us say: **“Lord, here I am.”** Let our **yes** be visible in our forgiveness. Let our **yes** be visible in our kindness. Let our **yes** be visible in our service. Let our **yes** be visible in our obedience. And as we come to the altar today, Jesus asks each one of us a very simple but powerful question: **“Is your yes only on your lips, or is your yes visible in your life?”** May our answer not only be with our words. May our **life** give the answer. **Amen**