Scripture Reading – Sept. 27, 2026 - LCUCPC

Matthew 21:23-32 NRSV Ue

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the
people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are
you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24 Jesus said to
them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will
also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John
come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one
another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not
believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd,
for all regard John as a prophet.” 27 So they answered Jesus, “We do not
know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am
doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

28 “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said,
‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29 He answered, ‘I will not,’ but
later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father[a] went to the second and
said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. 31 Which of
the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them,
“Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the
kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of
righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the
prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your
minds and believe him.

May God’s spirit shape our understanding of these words.
And may they awaken in our hearts

