**Matthew 21:28-32**

**28**“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ **29**“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. **30**“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. **31**“Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered.

* Dear Father, I thank you for the lessons that you provide for us. Forgive us our arrogance when we refuse to do what You ask of us. Help us to reflect on what is right and good, so that we can then do as we are asked.
* Moreover, let us keep our promises when we say we will do something. Help us to keep our word and stay faithful to You. Give us the strength and courage to follow through on what we know to be most important to You.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32**For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

* Lord, give us the ability to see and do what is necessary at all times, but especially when salvation is involved. Please shine Your light in the direction that we need to go and on whom we need to reach out to. I am thinking especially of…. Help us be bold and fearless when necessary, but also kind and generous. Help us to discern when Your Spirit is leading us to speak out.
* Father, we are so thankful for Your love and compassion. You bless us in so many ways that we can’t see. Help us to be gracious and share Your blessings to all of those around us.
* At this time, I especially thank you for:

The Elders and Ian and their families for their love and sacrifices.

Those who teach our children exactly who Jesus was, is and will always be. Their teaching will go far beyond just today.

Those who serve in quiet ways every day. All of those who are encouraging, praying and reaching out to others who are in need, be it physically, emotionally or spiritually. Many times, we don’t know who is at work behind the scenes, but things still get done. Thank You for touching their hearts for such a service.

Those who come early to prepare for the Worship Service every Sunday. Musicians, singers, those doing slides and sound. Those plowing the parking lot or shoveling snow. Those who make sure communion, donuts, coffee, etc. are all ready and waiting when others arrive.

* Father, I know that Your love for each of these is so much more than we can fathom. I thank you for allowing me to be part of this family. It is only through Jesus that I can claim that. It is through His name that we pray…Amen.