

09-27-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

"Perhaps in this parable [of the two sons]... we are called to identify with both sons. Sometimes we deny what we know God wants us to do...But then we reconsider...Other times... we say yes... to the tasks God asks of us, but we make no real effort to accomplish those tasks."

Dea Jones

"...we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion."

Mission Statement, Wesley UMC, Worcester, MA



Matthew 21:23–32

Questions for Reflection —

- With which son in the parable of the two sons do you more generally identify in how you live the life of Christian discipleship? Are there aspects of your faith life in which you sometimes resemble the other? How well do your actions match your words in terms of following the teachings of Jesus? What professed faith values present a challenge to you as you seek to embody them in daily life? How does your current daily routine reflect your commitment to follow and obey God's Word?
- What does it mean to you to do the will of God? What helps you discern God's will for you? Is there something to which you have said a verbal "yes" to God, but have held back from living into it through your actions? To what would you like to (re)commit in your discipleship? What cares or fears are getting in the way? What are the competing demands on your time and energy? What spiritual practices might help you enact God's will and follow God's call?
- In what ways do you see alignment of words and actions when you reflect on our congregation's programs and ministries in light of our mission statement (see above)? In what ways might we need to seek realignment? Do you think the allocation of our resources (time, people, finances) reflects a commitment to our stated values? Is there something that might need to change in order for us to continue to be faithful to God's call for us over the course of time? What is your personal commitment to embodying our mission statement?

Daily Household Prayer

How quick we are to say yes to You, O Lord, and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment. We really want to serve, but we are weak and are easily drawn away by cares and fears. We pledge ourselves to working for Your kingdom but find ourselves pulled this way and that by other demands on our time and energy. Forgive us, O Lord, when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving You. Heal our spirits and give us the bold courage to truly be Your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.