

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

Obedience

by Floyd Thompson

To me, the greatest example of repentance and obedience is found in the illustration given by Jesus in Matthew 21:28-29. "A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son go work today in my vineyard. And he said, *I will not*; but afterward he repented and went."

At first, the son's will was not the father's will. But he changed his mind and submitted to his father's request. Obedience is bringing one's will into submission to another.

There is a story told of a rich farmer, who was obligated to make a long trip, and left his son in charge. He told him when he left, "Son, I want you to go ahead with my building plans. Build the house here, in the southeast corner of this square, the barn here in the southwest corner, and dig the well in the northwest corner."

When he returned, he found the house built in the southeast corner, the barn in the southwest corner, both exactly as he ordered,. but the well had been dug in the northeast corner.

Someone might say, "well he obeyed his father in two out of three instances." No, he didn't! He didn't obey him at all. Why did he put the well in the northeast corner? Because that's where *he* wanted it. It stands to reason that if he had wanted the house and the barn in different locations, he would have done it. He used *his* will, not his father's.

That is why James said in chapter 2:10, "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." If one's attitude is freedom to pick and choose your laws to obey, or your violations to leave undone, you would do the same with any law you did not like. Your will is not in subjection to God's law.