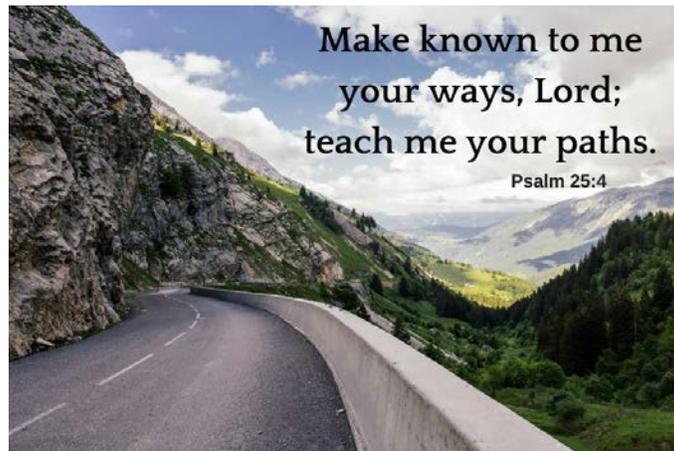


**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**October 1, 2017**  
**The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Ezekiel 18:25-28 + Philipians 2:1-11 + Matthew 21:28-32**



**Reflection by: Sister Patricia Crowley, OP**

*It is not enough to recall principles, state intentions, point to crying injustices and utter prophetic denunciation; these words will lack real weight unless they are accompanied for each Individual by a livelier awareness of personal responsibility and by effective action.*

Pope Paul VI, *Octagesimo Adveniens*, 1971:48

The gospel story seems quite obvious. Two sons asked to fulfill a task. The one son says 'NO' outright and later changes his mind; the other says, 'YES, YES' and does nothing.

All of us are invited to work in the vineyard, preparing the world for a renewed awareness of God's Presence in our midst. Some of us talk about the work, calling attention to the injustices, what divides us — the poverty and hunger, the discrimination and oppression. Others do something about it, challenging the systems that produce poverty and hunger, working for peace.

The work is challenging and often times discouraging. The son who said 'NO' is in contradiction to God's will. But after some deep consideration, he changes his mind. The son, who says 'YES' and does nothing is obedient to God's will, but his life is lived in opposition to it.

Jesus often points out to the people that those who are the religious leaders, the YES people, often led lives that said just the opposite to God's will. Those whose lives often seemed to say NO understood more deeply and were open to God's will.

Psalm 25 gives us the right prayer to go with this parable, *Lord, teach us your ways!* It is not enough that our words say YES to God. But what is crucial is that our lives say YES to God.