

26th Sunday Ordinary Time

What commercial is this from:

Hold the pickles hold the lettuce, special orders don't upset us,
All we ask is that you let us serve it your way

Another one was – Where's the beef!

When we go out for a burger it's not for the lettuce, pickles and tomatoes
It's for the beef

- **That is the message of today's reading**
- **Where's the beef**
- Actions speak louder than words

Today Jesus tells the story of two sons:

(1) One who said **yes - and then did not** do it AND (2) one who said **no - but later does**.

We come to church We pray the prayers We say all the right words
But do we live the life – THAT's the Beef
(Bahamian Song "Sunday Christians")

If I don't obey the commandments
If I cheat If I lie If I gossip If I steal
Then all we do here is lettuce and pickles
How we ACT is the BEEF

Jesus asks the Pharisees "which did the will of their father"?

When they say the one that obeys, Jesus condemns them – they know LAW - but not LIFE of it

"You can be sure that tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will!"

Now I always thought this was a big jump -

How do you get from the parable, to prostitutes going to heaven before Pharisees?

Prostitutes weren't keeping God's law

- They had said NO to God's commandments many times
- **But** when they met Jesus, and heard His message – it changed their lives, and they responded
- Chief Priest and the elders were like the second son
- they said YES to obeying God's law, they knew religion very well.
- they come and listen to Jesus, *but it never penetrated their hearts*
- and they don't change, they don't repent, they're comfortable in their sin.

Which son are we?

Where's the beef?

When asking this question we have to keep one thing in mind – The Good News:

- No matter how far we have strayed
- No matter how bad we have been
- It is never too late to turn back, and God will welcome us home

Remember the Prodigal Son? The Father *runs* to meet him.

Remember Peter, after denying Christ – the next time he sees Jesus:

Simon, son of John, do you love me (3x) – feed my sheep.

Jesus is concerned about my PRESENT relationship with Him

As far as the past is concerned, God has a very short memory

Jesus eats with sinners – and prostitutes repent

WE are about to share a meal with Jesus – it's our turn.