

## 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

Remember that old Burger King commercial – Where's the beef!

A little tiny lady would look at a burger and complain – Where's the beef!

Talk is cheap – prove it

Actions speak louder than words

- **That is the message of today's reading**

Today Jesus tells the story of two sons:

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

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

When they say the one that obeys, Jesus condemns them

"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?**

We may be very familiar with *religion* – but how do we live our lives?

Would people we meet, realize we were Christians?

Or are we the ones who've said, no way God - forget it;

Just too many rules and regulations.

We may have led a life that was clearly wrong - BUT then changed our minds!

Or - are we somewhere in between?

Where's the beef?

Jack – "I don't think that's a very good idea"

Do we say that to God?

Doing a little spiritual inventory from time to time can be good for us.

Which son are we?

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

This is the "injustice" of God Ezekiel mentions "God's ways are unfair"

God is being accused of being TOO forgiving – God expects conversion.

Jesus eats with sinners – and prostitutes repent

WE are about to share a meal with Jesus – its our turn.