

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014



# TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



EZEKIEL 18:25 – 28

PSALM 25:4 – 5, 6 – 7, 8 – 9

PHILIPPIANS 2:1 – 11 OR 2:1 – 5

MATTHEW 21:28 – 32

## REFLECTION

Have you ever told your parents that you'd do a chore they'd been nagging you about just to get them off your back, even if you didn't actually plan on doing it? That's kind of like what's going on in today's Gospel. Jesus accuses the religious leaders of being like disobedient children. And he compares the people who were considered to be really bad sinners to the kid who tells his father no but then changes his mind and does the right thing. "Sinners are entering heaven before you!" Jesus warns them. Throughout the Gospel accounts, Jesus warns about hypocrisy and judging other people's sins. Instead he says we should strive for humility.

It's good to remember that God's mercy and forgiveness is for everyone, not just the people we like and approve of. Don't fall into the trap of being a hypocrite. Don't rest in the knowledge that because you're a religious person then you must be good. We should always try to do the right thing but there's comfort in knowing that when we mess up God is merciful.

## ACTION

Is there someone that you think of as a bad person or that you really struggle to think kind thoughts about? In the week ahead try to find three things about that person that are good. Yes, they may do rotten things, too but *everyone* has good in them. Maybe he is a good brother or she helps take care of her grandmother. Maybe that person is a good musician or talented at sports or art. Now comes the hard part. Every day this week, pray for that person. Thank God for the gifts he or she has and pray that your heart can be open to appreciating them.



"FORGIVENESS"

BY TOBYMAC WITH  
LECRAE

[www.youtube.com  
/watch?v=xfkhqpl81NA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfkhqpl81NA)

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Jesus confronted the religious leaders so frequently? If you could talk to religious leaders today what would you warn them to do or not do?
- Is there an area of your life where you've been resisting doing what God asks? Do you think you can commit to doing the right thing? Why or why not?