**Which of the two did his father's will?**

**TUESDAY DICEMBER 15 (Mt 21,28-32)**

The Lord is the Lord. He is our Father. He is despised when his will is not done. Thus the prophet Malachi: *A son honors his father, and a servant fears his master; If then I am a father, where is the honor due to me? And if I am a master, where is the reverence due to me? -  So says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise his name. But you ask, "How have we despised your name?" By offering polluted food on my altar! Then you ask, "How have we polluted it?" By saying the table of the LORD may be slighted! When you offer a blind animal for sacrifice, is this not evil? When you offer the lame or the sick, is it not evil? Present it to your governor; see if he will accept it, or welcome you, says the LORD of hosts. So now if you implore God for mercy on us, when you have done the like Will he welcome any of you? says the LORD of hosts. Oh, that one among you would shut the temple gates to keep you from kindling fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts; neither will I accept any sacrifice from your hands, For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, my name is great among the nations; And everywhere they bring sacrifice to my name, and a pure offering; For great is my name among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.* (Mal 1,6-11). Whoever loves the Lord obeys his Law, lives according to his Word, observes his Prescriptions. If this does not happen, it is a sign that we are not his real children. We say it with words. We do not attest to this with facts. Our works reveal that we are far from Him.

This same truth reveals Jesus to his disciples. Salvation does not come from a yes, nor from a prayer which then does not turn into obedience to the Word. One obeys, one enters true salvation, one builds the house on the rock: *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name? 'Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.' "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined." (Mt 7,21-27).* Love is obedience, listening, submission to the Lord.

*"What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards he changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.*

John came, he was a powerful voice that invites to conversion. The tax collectors and prostitutes, who did not do the will of the Lord, listened to him and converted. They live in the Law of the Lord, even if before they had said no to God. Heads of the priests and elders of the people instead listened, however, trusting in their vain words, they did not believe him. They persevered in their injustice and iniquity. Without true conversion to the Prophets of the living God there is no salvation. In our faith without obedience to the Word of the prophets, there is no communion with our God. There is no conversion to the Word that the Lord makes resound for us today.

Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make that we listen to the voice of the Lord.