

HOMILY XXVI SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
SON, GO TODAY TO MY VINEYARD

My dear brothers and sisters.... Jesus presents us today with a simple story...

A father has two sons and asks them to go and work in his vineyard... The first one immediately answers: **I will not...**

He doesn't make an excuse... he doesn't try to look good... he simply says **no!**

But the Gospel adds a few words that completely change his story... **Afterward, he changed his mind... and went...**

And that word **afterward** really catches my attention...

Because it means that between that no and the moment, he finally went to the vineyard, **something happened inside him...**

We don't know how much time passed...

We don't know what he thought...

Jesus simply tells us, that this man **was able to look again at his own response...** change direction and **begin again...**

And this becomes a wonderful opportunity for us today, once again, **to think about our relationship with God...**

Because our story with Him isn't made only of the **yes**, we've been able to give Him... it also includes our **no...**

Our resistance...

The decisions that weren't the best...

The times when we knew the right path and **chose another one!**

But today's Gospel reminds us of something we need to hear... **Our last no to God doesn't have to become our final word!**

There is always the possibility of looking at our life again...

Recognizing that we need to change... taking a different direction... **And turning our eyes back to God!**

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...And we don't find this only in Jesus' parable...

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God reminds us today that a person can recognize that they were wrong... change the way they live... and return to Him...

Our past is part of our story... **but it doesn't have to decide forever how we respond to God...**

That is why there is one small word in the father's request that could easily go unnoticed... **Son, go out and work in the vineyard today... Today!**

And there is something deeply hopeful in that word... Because God meets us in the present moment... **and this is where we can give Him a new response...**

We also have a today before God!

And each one of us knows that part of our life where God is still waiting for a response...

Sometimes we can become so used to our own way of living, that we begin to think...

This is just who I'm...

I've always been this way...

At this point, I'm not going to change...

And without even realizing it, we begin to treat as final **something that God still wants to transform...**

But as long as God continues to speak that word **Today** over our lives... **it means that He isn't finished with us yet...**

We can still learn...

We can still grow...

We can still come a little closer to Him...

My dear friends, today's Gospel doesn't ask us what our response has been until now... **it invites us to ask what response we want to give God today!**

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And Saint Paul takes us even further... Because today we don't only hear the story of a son who finally responded to his father...

Paul places before us Christ... **the Son who made His whole life a response to the Father!** He tells us that Jesus **humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death... even death on a cross...**

His yes wasn't only a word... **It became a way of living... of serving... of giving Himself!** And that definitely helps us understand better what God expects from us...

Our response to Him doesn't remain only in what we say... **It takes shape in the way we live...**

Because in the end, our response to God is written each day...

In what we choose...

In the way we live...

In the person we're slowly becoming...

This is how Jesus lived His **yes** to the Father... His whole life became a response...

My dear brothers and sisters... The son in the Gospel began by saying no... But his story didn't end there... **Our story doesn't have to end where we are now either...**

God continues to call us...

God continues to work in our hearts...

And today He says to us again... **Son, go today to my vineyard...** And yes... it's true that we cannot change the **yes** or the **no** we gave yesterday... **But we can decide what our response will be today!**

Fr. Moices Rafael C.