

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



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What Teeth Can Teach about Sin



hole, the same tooth on the opposite side also had a huge hole. But as the dentist continued to view Nat's teeth, he could see further teeth needing care. In all Nat will need seven of his teeth pulled and some long term orthodontist work. As the dentist went on to explain, none of it is his fault.

When Nathanael was 9 months old he had needed to spend a week in the hospital being treated for cellulitis, a condition where an infection attacks the body. The treatment was a course of intense antibiotics. The dentist explained that the damage to Nathanael's teeth was most likely the result of the antibiotics, which though saving his life at the time, would have disrupted the tooth growing process which begins at that stage of life. The issues with Nat's teeth caused a decade ago could not but help remind

This week Nathanael required a dental visit to look at his teeth which had been giving him problems.

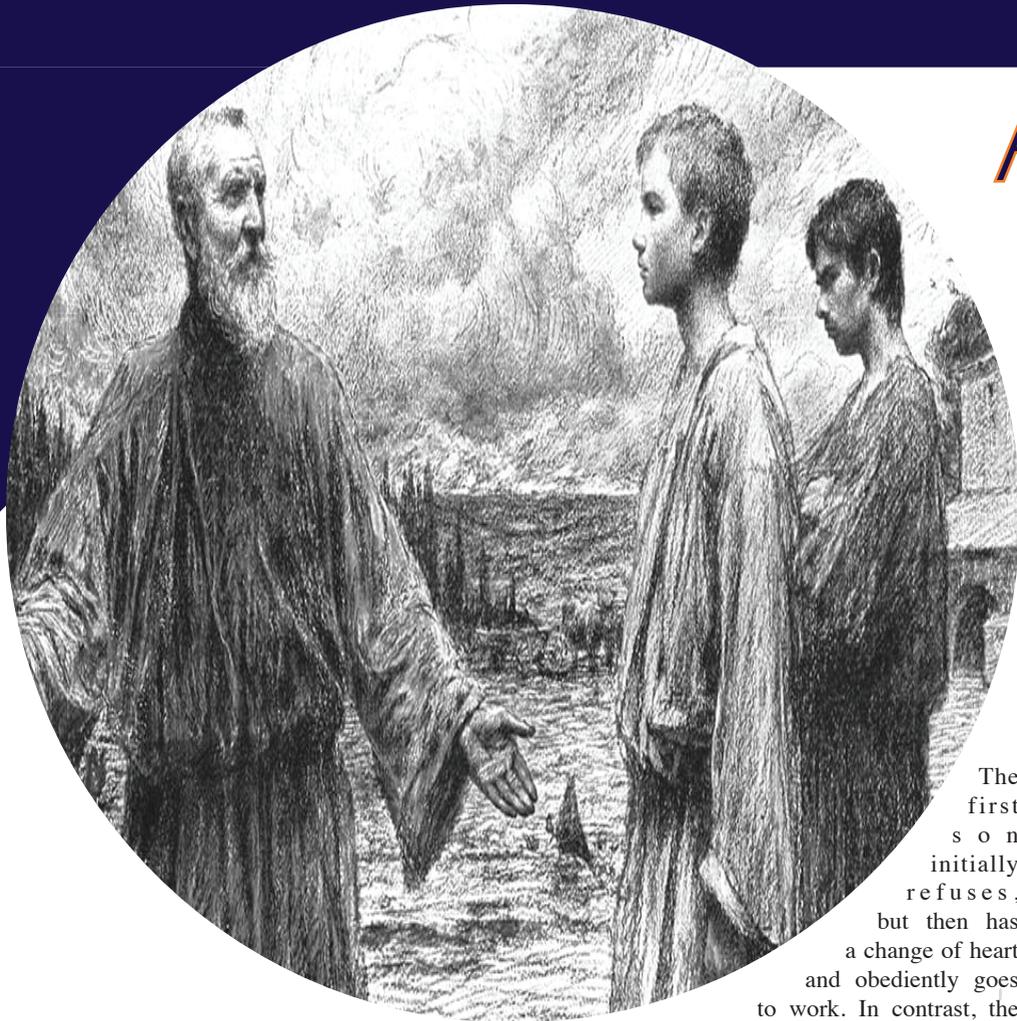
Last week Nathanael couldn't eat for two days because a hole in his tooth and become infected and was giving him immense pain. This tooth was due to pulled, but upon going to the dentist, the damage was far worse than expected. Not only did one tooth have a gaping

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A Parable of True Obedience

by Elise Brake

and prostitutes.

If it isn't clear why this parable would have been shocking for the priests and elders to hear, we must recognise who the characters of the story represent. The priests and elders may have initially thought the first son represented them, the righteous and learned, the most 'obedient' of all of God's people. However, the first son is actually the tax collectors and prostitutes (and us): those who once rejected God in our sin, but when hearing the good news of salvation in Jesus, turned back to God and believed in him. The second son in the parable is the priests and elders: those who outwardly say the right things and keep the letter of the law, but at heart are disobedient, motivated by the praise of man, not the glory of God. Furthermore, we know from the gospels that the priests and elders added extra rules to the Law which made it even harder for others to follow God and live in right relationship with him.

What can we learn from this parable as Christians today? Well, the biggest lesson is this: we cannot save ourselves! The priests and elders are the perfect example of religiosity without faithfulness. They sought to earn their place in God's kingdom by their pious, outwardly good deeds. However, this led them to spiritual blindness and arrogance in their relationship to God, trusting not

in God, but in their works. But the Bible is clear that our good works do not earn our salvation: 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast' (Eph 2:8-9). Our salvation is a gift, and it is not one that we could ever

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deserve. We respond to our salvation with obedience not to earn our way to heaven, but because we love God and want to obey him because that brings him glory. Salvation changes our attitude toward God and others. If we are motivated by looking 'good' before others, we've lost sight of God's grace. Alternatively, if we continue in sin, then we are taking God's grace for granted.

The first son initially refuses, but then has a change of heart and obediently goes to work. In contrast, the

second son initially claims he will do the work, but never does. Jesus asks the priests and elders which of the sons was obedient to the father, to which they correctly reply the first son. But Jesus uses this parable to call out how far their hearts are from being obedient to God. When the gospel was preached by John the Baptist, the people who repented and believed were not the priests and elders (with all their knowledge of God's promised king prophesied in the Old Testament writings), but the worst of sinners: the tax collectors

This past week I've been quite challenged while writing a talk for Girls For God on a parable Jesus tells in Matthew 21:28-32 which explores true obedience. Unlike many of his earlier parables, Jesus is not addressing his crowds of followers or faithful disciples: he is openly challenging the priests and elders who will soon have him crucified. The parable is simple: a man asks his two sons to go and work in the family vineyard.

Wisdom from a Dental Visit

me of how sin often effects us.

The great news of Christianity is that Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sin. But in giving us forgiveness, Jesus

consequences, which God often does not take away. Sin like the infection over a decade ago often causes problems that we don't realise at the time, but can affect us years or even decades later.

one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."

Sin never helps. It is never good! Though we might not feel its effects immediately, we should never be surprised if down the road in this life its consequences come back to bite us.

(Matthew 5:29-30 NIV11)

deals with the consequence of sin as we relate to God. Having had our sin dealt with in Jesus, we can sometimes forget that sin still has earthly

In Matthew's gospel we read *"If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose*

Jesus reveals the real danger of sin in this passage, in that sin if not forgiven, has eternal ramifications. But sin also has real consequences in our lives. Sin often fools us into thinking that it does not matter, that nobody is hurt. But sin always has a consequence, and though the consequences might not affect us for years, they may eventually come back to bite us. God will always forgive our sin because of the blood of Jesus, but that does not make sin inconsequential. Sin never helps, it is never good. Though we might not feel its effects immediately, we should never be surprised if down the road in this life its consequences come back to bite us. Therefore as Jesus warns, we should make every effort to remove it from our lives.

In Christ, Adam.

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

(Ephesians 4:30 NIV11)

Find-A-Word

Dentist	Hershey	Cranial	Forgiveness
Visit	Sweatpea	Wisdom	Atonement
Tooth	Rabbit	Bite	Gouge
Canine	Dinner	Overbite	Eye
Nova	Incisor	Harmartia	Grieve
Zumba	Infraction	Expiation	

I O V E R B I T E R T D C A Q
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