**THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS**

*By Meghan Brubaker*

***Synopsis***:

A modern re-telling of Jesus’ parable of the two sons, where one obeys and one doesn’t (Matthew 21:28-32).

***Length***: 5 minutes

***Cast***:

* 5 actors

***Props***:

* Table
* Chairs for announcers
* Microphone?
* Book/phone/game for sons

*Announcers are sitting behind table. A microphone could be set up on the table to make it look more realistic.*

**ANNOUNCER 1:** Welcome back to the local news. It’s a slow news day in the little town of Hawkesville. Not much is happening, but we are here to tell you all about the few things that are happening.

**ANNOUNCER** **2**: Jacob Martin’s horse got loose and ate the tops off all the carrots in the neighbour’s garden. Fortunately, the horse was discovered and returned to its paddock before it discovered the potato plants.

**ANNOUNCER 1**: In other news, a father has…(*looks at notes, confused)* Wait a second. Is this right? (*Shows it to Announcer 2)* Am I really supposed to report on *this*?

**ANNOUNCER 2**: If it’s on the paper, you have to say it.

**ANNOUNCER 1**: Yeah, but what kind of news is this? A father asked his son to mow the lawn and he said no. I mean, I know this is a slow news day, but this is ridiculous!

**ANNOUNCER 2**: There must be more to the story than just that.

**ANNOUNCER 1:** Like what?

**ANNOUNCER 2**: Well, let’s tune into the situation and see what’s going on.

*Nicholas is sitting on the stage. He is preoccupied with something—reading a book, on his phone, playing a game, etc.*

*Father enters.*

**FATHER**: Nicholas, there you are! I need to go help Uncle Andy with something, but I was wanting to mow the lawn. We’re supposed to get rain for the next five days, so it really needs to get done today. Will you do it while I’m gone?

**NICHOLAS**: Aw, Dad, you know the weatherman is always wrong. It probably won’t even rain!

**FATHER**: I’d rather not take that risk. Please mow the lawn for me today.

**NICHOLAS**: But I *hate* mowing the lawn. Plus, I’m super busy here.

**FATHER**: Really? Because it doesn’t look like it.

**NICHOLAS**: Oh, but I am. Super, super busy. Like, I have so much to do, I can’t even make a To-Do list because it wouldn’t fit onto a piece of paper, you know?

**FATHER**: So…let’s cut right to it. You’re saying no to my request?

**NICHOLAS**: Can’t Derek do it?

**FATHER**: *(Sighs)* Sure, I’ll ask Derek.

*Father walks over towards Derek but sort of stays near the back of the stage while the announcers talk.*

**ANNOUNCER 1**: See! What did I tell you? Nothing happened! What are they going to ask us to report on next, watching paint dry? How long it takes for water to boil? Watching clothes spin around in a washing machine?

**ANNOUNCER 2**: Well, maybe we just need to stick with the story. Let’s see what happened when the father asked Derek to do it.

*Father approaches Derek. Derek, too, is preoccupied with a book/phone/game.*

**FATHER**: Derek, I need to go help Uncle Andy today, but I want the lawn to get mowed before it rains. Will you do it for me?

**DEREK**: Sure, Dad. No problem!

**FATHER**: Thank you, son. See you tonight.

*Father exits.*

**ANNOUNCER 1:** Oh, great, that was even more boring than the first son. And I didn’t think it was possible for it to get more boring than that.

**ANNOUNCER 2**: Well, let’s just move on to the next item of news. Maybe it will be more interesting.

**ANNOUNCER 1**: (*Looks at paper and groans)* It involves brussels sprouts.

**ANNOUNCER 2**: Yeah, never mind. (*Looks startled)* Wait a second!

**ANNOUNCER 1:** What? It’s actually asparagus?

**ANNOUNCER 2:** No, nothing about vegetables! I just got word that Nicholas is mowing the lawn!

**ANNOUNCER 1**: Nicholas!?

**ANNOUNCER 2**: I know, right!?

**ANNOUNCER 1**: But he said he wouldn’t.

**ANNOUNCER 2**: I know, right!?

**ANNOUNCER 1:** He said he was too busy.

**ANNOUNCER 2**: I know, right!?

**ANNOUNCER 1:** He said that his brother should do it.

**ANNOUNCER 2**: I know, right!?

**ANNOUNCER 1:** He flat-out refused to help his dad.

**ANNOUNCER 2:** I know, right!?

**ANNOUNCER 1**: Will you stop saying that?

**ANNOUNCER 2:** I know, right!? Oops, sorry.

**ANNOUNCER 1**: He must have had a change of heart.

**ANNOUNCER 2**: My sources are telling me that he realized that he was being selfish and lazy when he told his dad no, and he decided to go mow the lawn like he should have in the first place.

**ANNOUNCER 1:** Well, that’s an interesting twist.

**ANNOUNCER 2:** My sources are also telling me that Derek still hasn’t moved from the chair he was sitting in when his father asked him to mow the lawn and he said he would. He seems to be very interested in his phone at the moment.

**ANNOUNCER 1:** Who knew this story could actually take a fascinating turn? I wonder what’s going to happen when the dad comes home.

*Father enters the scene. Both sons are sitting there.*

**FATHER**: Derek, I want to talk to you about the lawn.

**DEREK**: (*His head pops up guiltily and his eyes go wide)* Uh, yeah, um, about that….

**FATHER**: It looks wonderful! Thank you for doing such a good job!

**DEREK**: Wait, what?

**FATHER**: I especially liked the way you made those nice stripes going back and forth. It looks great!

**DEREK**: Uh, I just, I was just…um…Dad. I didn’t mow the lawn.

**FATHER**: You didn’t mow the lawn??? But you said you would.

**DEREK**: I’m sorry. I got distracted, I guess, and the day just slipped away from me.

**FATHER**: Then who mowed the lawn?

**NICHOLAS**: I did.

**FATHER**: Oh! But you said you wouldn’t.

**NICHOLAS**: Yeah, but then I felt guilty for not obeying you. So I did it.

**FATHER**: Thank you, Nicholas. (*Turns to Derek)* Now, Derek, maybe we should have a chat about your disobedience…

**ANNOUNCER 1**: Well. That turned out to be a pretty interesting story after all!

**ANNOUNCER 2**: It’s true! The question we can ask is, which son truly obeyed his father?

**ANNOUNCER 1:** I guess Nicholas did.

**ANNOUNCER 2**: This just shows us that it’s not enough just to say you’ll obey. It’s the actual action of obedience that really matters.

**ANNOUNCER 1:** You know, that’s a good thing for me to remember, too. Sometimes I tell God I’ll do something, and I really mean to do it, but then I get distracted. I guess I forget that not doing that thing is actually disobedience.

**ANNOUNCER 2**: You’re right. True obedience involves action, not just empty promises. Otherwise, it’s not obedience at all.