

PARABLE OF THE TENANTS



Matthew 21:33-34

Jesus said, "Here is another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard... When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned... Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants..." Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The Stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

Reflection:

The good news of this gospel is that the kingdom will survive no matter how the tenants act because the cornerstone is Christ. This provides a metaphor for our own living. No matter what shape the vineyard of our own lives is in, whether we need pruning or we seem to be in a dry desert, if we keep our eyes on Christ as the cornerstone of our own lives we will be fruitful. God cares for the vineyard of our lives we are nurtured by God, fed at God's table, helped by the commandment of love. All we need to do is let God tend us and bring us to produce good fruit. All we need do is be faithful; God will take care of the rest. (Living Liturgy, p.248)

Vincentian Meditation:

"Do not be upset if things are not as you would want them to be for a long time to come. Do the little you can very peacefully and calmly so as to allow room for the guidance of God in your lives. Do not worry about the rest."- St. Louise de Marillac-

(Gibson and Kneaves, Praying with Louise, p.40)

Intercessions:

Closing Prayer:

Those who walk with integrity proclaim the steadfast love of our God. In trust, we pray, walk with us, Lord.

Teach us to do what is right, and to speak the truth with courage.

Teach us to serve the poor, and to recognize the face of Christ. Amen