

October 8th 2023 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 21:33 - 43

³³ ‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ ⁴¹They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

⁴² Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p>
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This week’s gospel is first of all the story of the landowner deeply aggrieved at the conduct of his tenants. The land owner represents us when we give our all as parents, teachers, church and community leaders. The landowner also represents God so that we are invited to enter into God's feelings when we see how we humans treat His precious sons and daughters and our beautiful nature. We can see that at the root anger in the tenants is that they want to own the vineyard. This parable tells us of the destructive effects of greed - doing violence to the rights of others. What attitude towards possessions has helped you to be at peace in yourself and at peace with others?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for those who have loved us without being possessive. When the time came for us to go, often to far away lands, they let us go with peace and calm in their heart.

Forgive us Lord for looking on our wealth or the wealth of our country as our own, to do with as we like.

Help us Lord to put into practice what we received from you, both in words and actions. Let your peace be with us and help us to be aware of the loving God present in our everyday experience.

