

Our Time in the Vineyard

27th Week of Ordinary Time – Matthew 21: 33-43

October 8, 2017

Jesus has spent a lot of time in the last few weeks telling stories of the many workers in the vineyard. Of course, the point of each of these stories is that Jesus is talking about you and me.

There have been workers who show up in the vineyard at different hours of the day and work different amounts of time only to receive the same wage. There are workers who say yes they will work but then don't do it. While those who initially refused to help have a change of heart and join in the labor.

In each of these stories, Jesus' is talking about the Kingdom of God and the adult demands of Christian life. If we are going to labor in the fields of justice, mercy and love, we are going to find that the working conditions aren't great, the pay is poor, the work is hard but the rewards are eternal.

This week's gospel turns a bit more demanding. Jesus is pointing out to the religious and political leaders, that their faith is shallow. They have not produced the fruit the landowner (God) has demanded. They have failed, just like the tenants in the parable, to listen to God's servants or accept His Son. In fact, Jesus will suffer a death like the one in His parable, **"They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him."** Jesus' death and resurrection will set into motion an entirely new movement. **"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes!"**

We, the Church, the baptized disciples of Christ, are the new tenants. We have been called to produce the fruit of the kingdom...namely to share the Good News about Jesus Christ and make more disciples. We are called to live up to the adult demands of being a disciple of Christ.

So here are a few questions for the week: How do I produce fruit for the kingdom? In what ways, have I worked to bring about the continual forward movement of the Church? What do I do, on a regular basis, which produces the justice, mercy and love of Christ's mission?

This is our time in the vineyard. Jesus is calling us to produce a yield worthy of the Christian name we bear.

Blessings!


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