

PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

Matthew 21:33-46

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Do you ever question the security of your place in God's kingdom? Why or why not?
- Which aspects of your faith and worship practices are non-negotiable? What makes these things essential for you?

As Jesus Christ approaches his arrest and crucifixion, he delivers a somber warning. The message he has is too important to be missed or dismissed. In fact, Jesus makes sure his story about a vineyard owner and its tenants is anything but subtle. The religious authorities of his day quickly recognize the Old Testament parallels and know immediately that his admonition and warning is for them. Will they take it to heart? Will they heed his foreboding warning about the cost of rejecting him and turning from God? What about us? Will we dismiss Jesus' warning as only a message for the Jews of his day? Are you willing to hear what he has to say? Will you acknowledge and accept Jesus as the Son of God?

Listen: [Parable of the Tenants](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, host Dave Bast observes that God is looking for fruit. Is your life producing fruit? Does the fruit of your life reflect your acceptance of Jesus as God's Son?
- In the parable, the landowner (God) sends 3 servants and then his son to the tenants before considering any legal action. Likewise, God sent Israel many Old Testament prophets and then Jesus Christ, his only son, in hopes that they would repent and seek his salvation and receive his Kingdom. What does this chosen course of action show you about God and his character?
- In segment 3, host Scott Hoezee reflects on the lessons we learn from this very poignant parable and notes that God still send us his word through messengers. One example he gives is present day pastors and sermons. In response, Dave shared the saying "The purpose [of preaching] is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable..." Have you ever heard a sermon that convicted you about a place in your life where you are too comfortable and perhaps not fully responding to God's call or living according to his way?? What did you do about it? Based on the lessons learned from Jesus' parable of the tenants, do you think you reacted the way you should have right away? Or do you think you should have done something differently?
- In segment 3, Dave recalls that the prophet Jeremiah angered Israel by preaching against the Temple. He notes that their anger stemmed from their view of the Temple and belief that God would never do anything to his Temple. Spend time reflecting on your worship and faith practices. Are there things you treat as your "security blanket" or your "ticket to heaven" like the Pharisees and religious authorities did with the temple? Do you hold religious traditions, practices, places, liturgies, etc. tightly or loosely? Do they aid your worship of or take the place of God in your life? What are you worshiping?

Related Passages

- **Isaiah 5:1-7**
- **Micah 6:6-8**
- **Psalm 118:22-24**
- **Hebrews 13:11-16**
- **Luke 20:9-19**

Conclusion

In his book, *And the Angels Were Silent*, Max Lucado reflects on Jesus' Parable of the Tenants and while taking seriously Jesus' sobering message, Lucado redirects our focus to God. He writes,

“God is intolerant of the calloused heart. He is patient with our mistakes. He is longsuffering with our stumbles. He doesn't get angry at our questions. He doesn't turn away when we struggle. But when we repeatedly reject his message, when we are insensitive to his pleadings, when he changes history itself to get our attention and we still don't listen, he honors our request...The purpose of his patience? Our repentance.”

What is the condition of your heart? Respond to God's patience. Find your security and assurance of salvation in his one and only son, Jesus Christ.

<https://groundwork.reframedia.com/episodes/parable-of-the-tenants>

Printed on August 3, 2020