

Lectio Divina on The Vineyard of God

Mark 12:1-12

Exposition:

Jesus is saying what he means indirectly.

Israel is the Vineyard.

The servants are the prophets.

The tenants are the priests, teachers of the law and the elders - the elite.

The leaders know exactly what he is saying about them.

That they have made an enemy of God.

The Final Messenger

They were not sure who the son of the owner was.

But Jesus did.

God's own son.

He is meant to be rejected, abused and killed.

Ironically,

Jesus uses this story about the leaders to incite them to actually fulfill it.

Not the final word

This reveals how the justice of God works.

1. The God of Second chances (and third and fourth...)

But this is what we don't like.

We want justice immediately rather than a patient mercy.

But we too have received this mercy.

It is the opportunity for repentance.

2. Justice will be served

This mercy is weighed.

When a certain tipping point is reached, truth and justice is applied to the full extent.

Though the mills of God grind slowly,

yet they grind exceeding small;

Though with patience he stands waiting,

with exactness grinds he all.

Justice delayed is not justice denied.

Jesus' death not only bought time but bought us.

Anyone who accepts his act of sacrifice in our place (atonement) begins to be a part of the Kingdom of Grace.

Those who do not are under wrath.

3. We live in the time after the Son but before the Judgement.

So how then are we to live?

With sober view towards our own lives and sins.

With truth and grace towards all.

With hope in Christ for our atonement.

With attentiveness to the Holy Spirit

so we can participate in Christ's Mission of Grace every day.

Centering Prayer:

Listening to the Passage & Prayer:

How did this story make you feel?

What are you asked to pay attention to and why?

Persons

Events

Words

Pictures

Ideas

Memories

How are you meant to live this verse out?

Is there something you are meant to explore?

Is there something you are meant to do?

Is there someone you are supposed to talk to?

Is there a particular conviction?

Is there a particular comfort?