



# Daily Reflections

## March 13, 2020

---

### Scripture

#### **Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

“Hear another parable.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,

put a hedge around it,

dug a wine press in it, and built a tower.

Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.

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.

Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones,  
but they treated them in the same way.

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

who will give him the produce at the proper times.”

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.”  
When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables,  
they knew that he was speaking about them.  
And although they were attempting to arrest him,  
they feared the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet.

---

## **Our Scripture Reflection**

You and I have been placed in this life with time and talent for a purpose. We are expected to use the time we have to produce good fruit for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Matthew illustrates in this important parable that Our Lord will be returning some day to receive the harvest. The question for us is: what will we have to show? Little to nothing will not be a proper response to the God Who loved us and trusted us enough to do His bidding. This Lenten day provides us with an important opportunity to do an accounting before it is too late.

---

## **Food for your Journey**

The Quaker spiritual writer, Douglas Van Steere tells of a potato farmer he once knew in Michigan. The man was frugal to a fault. He was so tight that he planted only the peelings of his potatoes as seed. He fed the insides to his livestock.  
His method worked fine in years when there was plenty of moisture. But when the rains failed, he nearly always lost his crop. In years of drought, only the farmers who planted whole potatoes enjoyed a harvest.  
Van Steere teaches that, in our spiritual lives, it's only when we plant the whole of ourselves, not just life's "peelings," that we reap a bountiful harvest. He quotes a line from the Spanish philosopher Miguel de Unamuno: "Sow yourselves, sow the living part of yourselves, in the furrows of life."

---

## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Loving God,  
You call us back to Yourself with all of our hearts. I feel Your call for me deep in my heart and I know You want me back  
as much as I want to return.  
Please, Lord, give me the wisdom to know how to return.  
Make my journey back to You this Lent one of grace, forgiveness and gentle love. Amen