



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 17, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 21: 33-46

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

Jesus tells a parable to the corrupt and hypocritical religious leaders and teachers that angered them. Why? Because He is illustrating for them what they can not see in themselves. They, like their ancestors who rejected Moses and the prophets before them, are now rejecting God's only Son. Their punishment? They will lose the stewardship of the Kingdom. The Kingdom will be entrusted instead to those who will produce fruit, that is, who will genuinely do the work of God.

Food for your Journey

"We are only tenants, and shortly the great Landlord will give us notice that our lease has expired"

--Joseph Jefferson.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Out of love, You entrusted the work of Your Kingdom to us. Help me to do my part each day, Lord, by living the way of Your Gospel. Amen.