

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

9/29/19

Text: Matthew 21:33-46

Title: The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In the sermon, Tim taught us about the Parable of the Wicked Tenants, as the owner of the vineyard is seeking to reap the harvest from his fields, but the tenants who have been managing the fields beat and kill the Owner's servants, and eventually kill the Owner's son, ending in a declaration that the Owner will eventually come and destroy those tenants and let his fields out to others. As we saw, Jesus is telling this parable to the Pharisees and religious leaders who, though they saw who Jesus was and heard His ministry, refused to submit to Him and were far more fearful of the crowds and the loss of their power, than they were of God in human form. As Tim said, receiving the message of the Gospel and God's salvation requires us to admit we've been horribly wrong and are in utter need. Jesus promises that even though He'll patiently wait for a time, He truly will return to judge, and our response to Him now has eternal consequences. It is only through humbly relying on Him, and freely giving Him everything that already belongs to Him, that we can experience His grace and forgiveness.

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said Jesus is the Owner (so everything really belongs to Him), and He is the Cornerstone (so all the other pieces are cut to fit according to Him).*
 - ***In what parts of your life are you most likely to resist acknowledging Jesus' ownership?***
 - ***What is it like to be "cut" in order to fit with Jesus, the cornerstone?***
2. *Tim quoted a Christian scholar saying, "Do not confuse God's patience with His approval." Just because He lets us continue in our sin, doesn't mean He approves of it.*
 - ***What defiant or sinful practices in your life has God allowed you to continue in where you may have mistaken His patience for His approval?***
3. *Tim said by receiving salvation we have to admit we're wrong and we've failed, and we need something we can't provide on our own.*
 - ***When has it been hard for you to receive salvation? What obstacles stand in the way of admitting failure and need?***
 - ***What does it mean that as the owner He is worthy of the harvest of our hearts?***

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

- *Worship the LORD who is your Owner. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His good authority over all evil, so that He has guaranteed that His will prevails and evil will surely and eternally be overthrown.*

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

- *How have you lived (whether you were aware of it or not) that God is not your Owner? Confess your attitude and actions as equal to being a thief, asking Jesus to have mercy upon you and to change your heart to be reconciled to Him.*

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

- *Give thanks to Jesus for coming to bear the punishment you deserve. And thank Him for revealing to you how absolutely necessary He is, and for offering Himself to freely give what no one could ever take or earn.*

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

- *Ask the Holy Spirit to grow in you a greater sense of God's ownership of you and of all people. Pray that He would help you trust in Jesus' authority (and ultimate justice) even as He calls you to testify to rebels.*

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

- *Who do you know that avoids rendering to God the fruit that He is due? Pray for them, asking the Lord to awaken them from their denial and peril.*