The Lord's Vineyard

Tony Mauck · Matthew 21:33–46

INTRODUCTION

- They tell us a lot about the nature of the kingdom that Jesus established. They tell us a lot about how God feels towards people and their actions.
- The parable of the Lord's Vineyard in Matthew chapter 21.
- No doubt they would call to mind the parable of Isaiah chapter 5, spoken 750 years earlier, where there is a lot more detail given to the Lord's vineyard.

1 The Extraordinary Care Given to the Vineyard

Isaiah 5:4; Philippians 4:19; 1 Peter 4:18

- The extraordinary care that they gave to the vineyard. He had supplied everything for Israel's need.
- And my God shall richly supply all of your need in Christ Jesus.
- What more is there that I could have done for my vineyard? He could still ask that same question.
- Our difficulty and our struggle and our trial produces a better character and a richer faith, and we need that.
- Don't ever question the Lord's care for his vineyard. The Lord's love for you, his people.

2 The Son's Removal from the Vineyard

Hebrews 13:11–13; Acts 7

- Could this be anticipating the Lord's very unceremonious expulsion from the city where he is crucified outside the camp.
- Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people through his own blood, suffered outside the gate.
- Hence, let us go to him outside the camp, bearing his reproach.
- Stephen is following in the example of Jesus. And he too was drug outside the camp.
- We have to go outside the camp as Jesus did. And we ought to expect it to be that way.

3 We Struggle to Assess Fault in Ourselves

2 Samuel 12; Proverbs 4:23; Philippians 2:3

- We struggle to assess fault in ourselves. It is so far easier to see it in others, but we want to give ourselves a pass.
- Keep your heart with all diligence. For out of it flows the issues of life.
- We've done only that, which we ought to have done. And we're still unprofitable servants.
- We ought to do nothing from selfishness and empty conceit.
- Two things that we struggle to do and assess in ourselves are pride and selfishness.

4 Given to a Nation Producing the Fruit

Matthew 21:43; Psalm 118:22–23; 1 John 5:3

- I'm going to give it to a nation producing the fruit of it. Look, folks, that's you and me. That's Christians.
- What is the fruit of the kingdom? Well, it's the fruit of the Spirit, to be sure.
- It is being a light in our homes. It is being a servant among our brothers. It is being a worker in his cause.
- This is the love of God. That we keep his commandments. And they are not burdensome.
- If you appreciate, you'll pay the proceeds and do so joyfully.

5 If the Shoe Fits, Wear It

- They could put two and two together. He's talking about us.
- If the shoe fits, put it on, do something about it, act, respond. Because that's what teaching is designed to do.
- To make us and mold us into the image of the one who owns the vineyard.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you associated with the Lord's vineyard? Are you sure that you are included in God's glorious plans? And if you have been included at some point in the past, are you faithful now?

MY NOTES