

# Sunday, October 4, 2020 - 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*The First Reading, Psalm, and Gospel all talk about vineyards.*

*The First Reading and Psalm both speak of God's people as like a vineyard.*

*The Gospel speaks of all the areas in our lives where we as God's people need to faithful caretakers of God's vineyard.*

*The First Reading describes the exile as a time of future judgment.*

*The Psalm describes the exile as a current experience.*

*In the First Reading and Psalm the problem is with the unfaithful vineyard.*

*In the Gospel the problem is with the unfaithful tenants of the vineyard.*

## **Isaiah 5:1-7 (NRSV) The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard**

<sup>1</sup> Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines;

he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup> And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,

judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed,

and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

## **Psalm 80:7-15 (NRSV)**

<sup>8</sup> You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

<sup>11</sup> it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.

<sup>12</sup> Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

<sup>13</sup> The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

<sup>14</sup> Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,

<sup>15</sup> the stock that your right hand planted.

## **Philippians 3:4b-14 (NRSV)**

*Those who would seek salvation by works rather than by grace will end up going in one of two directions – either towards pride or despair.*

*Martin Luther is an example of despair; the apostle Paul is an example of pride.*

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

*But Paul now views as “loss” and “rubbish” what he had once considered as so valuable and worthy.*

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order to gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him.

*Righteousness = perfection, perfect conformity to a standard*

*Not a righteousness we achieve, but a righteousness we receive*

*Examples of when 90%, or even 99%, is not enough – only 100% is acceptable*

<sup>9</sup> Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

*Outreach through Music – Press On*

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

<sup>13</sup> I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Focus – where do you need to focus?*

*Forget – what do you need to forget? “I distinctly remember forgetting that.”*

*Forge ahead – where do you need to forge ahead? could focusing and forgetting help you forge ahead?*

## **Matthew 21:33-46 (NRSV) The Parable of the Wicked Tenants**

1. God has called us to do His work
2. God has equipped us to do His work
3. God holds us responsible to do His work

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.