

THEME: THE PARABLES OF JESUS
TOPIC: THE WICKED VINEDRESSERS
TEXT: MATTHEW 21:33-46; MARK 12:1-2; LUKE 20:9-19

INTRODUCTION

As we saw in our last study, Jesus often used parables to reply to those who opposed Him. In the parable of "**The Two Sons**" (Matthew 21:28-32), Jesus responded to those who had rejected John the Baptist.

But in the parable of "**The Wicked Vinedressers**" (Matthew 21:33-46), Jesus vividly describes the sinfulness of those religious leaders who were rejecting the very Son of God!

II. AN APPLICATION OF THE PARABLE

B. WE NOTE HOW PEOPLE OFTEN MAKE BAD USE OF THEIR PRIVILEGES.

1. The history of Israel as a nation established by God.
 - a. They consistently murmured against God in the wilderness.
 - b. They turned away from God time and again during the period of the Judges.
 - c. They persecuted His prophets, and eventually rejected His own Son.
2. What about us today?
 - a. We have blessings given to us through Christ
 - The forgiveness of sins through His blood.
 - The aid of the Holy Spirit in putting to death the deeds of the body.
 - The joy of fellowship in the family of God.
 - The privilege of sharing the gospel with a dying world.
 - b. And yet Christians often turn their back on such blessings.
 - They sin, and do not seek forgiveness
 - They do not seek the help God gives to deal with the problem of sin
 - They neglect their brethren by forsaking the assembling, and by not developing close relationships with them
 - They make little or no effort to spread the precious gospel of Christ

C. WE NOTE THE AWFUL JUDGMENT THAT COMES UPON THOSE WHO MAKE BAD USE OF THEIR PRIVILEGES.

1. Again, the nation of Israel is an example
 - a. They suffered forty years of wandering in the wilderness.
 - b. God allowed neighbouring nations to be a thorn in their side.
 - c. They endured Assyrian and Babylonian captivity.
 - d. God destroyed their temple and their religion by the Babylonians (586 B.C.) and the Romans (70 A.D.).
 - e. He has indeed taken away the kingdom of God from them, and given it to a nation bearing the fruits of it – **Matthew 21:43**.
2. Would God bring such judgments against His church or people today if they abuse their privileges?
 - a. Consider the words of Jesus – **John 15:1-2, 6; Revelation 2:4-5, 16; 3:1-3**.
 - b. Consider what was written to the Hebrew Christians – **Hebrews 10: 26-31**.
3. Clearly, if we do not utilize our special privileges.
 - a. God will take away the blessings we have (i.e., the kingdom of God).
 - b. And give it to someone who appreciates it (i.e. bears the fruit of it).

CONCLUSION

The main lesson of this parable can be summarized in the words of **Psalm 2:12**.

So obvious was Jesus' meaning and intent in telling this parable, that the religious leaders would have arrested Him at that moment had it not been for the people **Matthew 21:45-46**.

Truly God has given us wonderful blessings.

- a. He made us worthy to be "**partakers of the inheritance of the saints**" - **Colossians 1:12**
- b. He "**has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**" - **Colossians 1:13**
- c. In Christ we have "**redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins**" – **Colossians 1:14**
- d. He sent us apostles and prophets of His Son, whose words are in the New Testament.

In light of the above, let us be careful how we receive them (**John 13:20**), for the next time the Beloved Son is sent, He is coming in terrifying judgment! - **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**.

Indeed, as Jesus said, "**For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.**" **Luke 12:48**.