

CONTEXT

- 1] Tues / Wed in Jerusalem on final week of Jesus' life – (before crucifixion on Friday)
- 2] High priests plotting to 'destroy' Him / People 'hanging on His Words' (19:47,48)
- 3] Jesus 'dusts aside' a delegation of leaders re the issue of authority (20:1-8)
? Why is he telling this to 'the people' who acclaimed him as king?

Intro 'give the hairy eyeball' cf Jesus in coronavirus

THE SITUATION (9a)

1] 'and he began'

i.e. continued on from being questioned by leaders re authority (20:1- 8)

2] 'to tell the people'

a) Had been speaking to delegation chief priests, scribes, elders (20:1)
nb they were still listening (20:19)

b) now addressed the people (18:43; 19:48; 20:1)
i.e. Jewish pilgrims who had said 'blessed is the King as they welcomed Jesus (19:38)

THE PARABLE (9b-10b)

1] 'a man planted out a vineyard'

Nb Image understood 'the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the house of Israel' (Is 5:7)

Cf The earth is the Lord and all that fills it (Ps 24:1)

God 'plants the vineyard' He owns and created everything - (It is such a long 'while' that we forget!)

2] 'let it out to tenants'

Nb rent at a price which is agreed by both parties

3] 'went into another country for a long time'

Cf 2 days before - Parable of minas 'noble man went into a far country' (cf 19:12)

4] 'When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard' (10)

a) 'The time came' –

ie = in the agreement – harvest time?

b) 'Servant' = a bond slave

cf the prophets – come to Israel from God down the years commanding obedience (Acts 7:52; Hebrews 11:32,36ff)

c) 'give some of the fruit' – a proportion of the harvest

*nb The Lord expected 1/10th **under the Law** (Lev 27:30-32)*

God expects us 'to give Him glory and enjoy Him'

GRACE God is patient, waits and asks again and again for a response

THE RECEPTION OF THE OWNERS REQUEST (10b -15a)

1] of 3 servants (10b -12)

a) 'beaten ...treated shamefully...wounded'

b) sent them away 'empty handed'

i.e. The flat refusal of the tenants - not even a little of the harvest- rejected any claim of the owner

nb 3 servants - The Lord is patient ... not wanting any to perish (2 Pet 3:9)

Do not ignore/maltreat God's prophets

2] of the son (13-15a)

a) The owners reasoning (13)

1) owner - asks the question – 'what should I do?'

2) 'send my beloved son'

cf 'You are my beloved son' (Luke 3:22)

cf Son of God (1:35; 3:38; 4:3; 4:41; 22:70)

cf God so loved the world that He sent us His son (John 3:16)

cf Son appointed heir of all things (Heb 1:2)

your worth? God values us enough to send His Son

3) 'perhaps they will respect Him'

*Do you 'respect' God's beloved Son, Jesus**

b) the tenants' response (14-15a)

1) reasoning – **'this is the heir. Let us kill him so the inheritance may be ours'**

nb deluded! Flat in Edinburgh – son and friends stay – they throw him out...?!... justice?

cf inherit - what shall I do to inherit eternal life? (10:25; 18:18)

nb it is appointed for men to die once and after that, judgement (Heb 9:27)

**Beware – Never think you can 'get round' God – act quickly then He won't be able to do anything about it. **

2) action – **'they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him'**

Cf Jesus on His way to Jerusalem had predicted several times 'after flogging Him they will kill Him (18:32)

THE ACTION OF THE MASTER (15b - 16b)

1] **'What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them' (15b)**

Nb Jesus appealing to judgement – killed servant's son & rejected all claims on rent?

2] **'He will come and destroy those tenants' (16a)**

*Nb same word - **destroy** (the tenants) AS chief priest etc seeking to **destroy** him (19:47)*

3] **'and give the vineyard to others' (16b)**

I.e. other than the people of Israel (Is 5:7)

THE RESPONSE TO THE PARABLE (16c-18)

1] **'When the people heard this, they said, 'surely not' (16b)**

Nb told against the scribes and the chief priest (19:19) but people will reject too (23:13,21)

Balked at it - Cf (Peter) Far be it from you Lord ... get behind me Satan (Matt 16:22)

Don't ever contradict Jesus

2] **Jesus (17,18)**

a) **'Looked at them directly' (17a)**

JESUS, the Word, speaks to us directly

When He 'looks directly' at you, listen!

In this Coronavirus pandemic – what is God saying – LISTEN?

b) **'What then is this that is written?' (17b)**

cf quoting Scripture, the Word of God, to the Devil in His temptations (Lk 4:4,8)

c) **'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'(17c)**

cf Ps118:22; Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:7)

nb He, the Son, is the stone that is rejected

d) **Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces and when it falls on anyone it will crush him (18)**

nb The wise man built his house on the rock (Mt 7:24)

All authority is given to Jesus in Heaven and earth (Mt 28:19)

Nb a warning not a threat cf Father forgive them

**He is the final as judge. His say is decisive and final **

Note – God means business

Conclusion

1] Receive the Father's Son. Accept him. Trust Him. Honour Him

2] Don't reject Him – He is very patient, but not forever.

(This coronavirus is a wake up and a shake up for us all)

Main Point *All who reject Jesus will be judged*

Key verse *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone – everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces... (17b, 18a)*