

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



October 4, 2020 // Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time // Lectionary: 139 // Gospel MT 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times." Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?* Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

Spiritual Reflection: If one carefully explores today's Gospel, one discovers that the landowner is an incredibly generous person. He has done most of the work. Unfortunately the tenants do not see it that way, they are ungrateful for all the landowner has done and wants more. The following quotes from Albert Einstein comes to mind: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Spiritual Questions:

1. How many things did the landowner do for the tenant?
2. How many things does God do for you that you take for granted?
3. How does ingratitude lead to other sins?
4. Name something(s) that you feel entitled to even though you are not really.
5. What is the natural punishment for living a life of ingratitude?