

28 Parables of Jesus Series **Any Fruit In The Vineyard?**

Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

COL Chapter 23: "The Lord's Vineyard"

"The parable of the two sons was followed by the parable of the vineyard. In the one, Christ had set before the Jewish teachers the importance of obedience. In the other, He pointed to the rich blessings bestowed upon Israel, and in these showed God's claim to their obedience. He set before them the glory of God's purpose, which through obedience they might have fulfilled. Withdrawing the veil from the future, He showed how, by failure to fulfill His purpose, the whole nation was forfeiting His blessing, and bringing ruin upon itself." COL 284

What is the introduction of the parable of the vineyard?

Matthew 21:33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

A vineyard is usually is description of a farm with rolls of vine plants that grow a variety of grapes.

Who does the certain householder represent?

Householder (Greek): the head of a family: - goodman (of the house), householder, master of the house. [Strong Greek Dictionary]

Who is the master and creator of the universe? God

The certain householder is God.

How does Isaiah describe this vineyard that God planted?

Isaiah 5:1-2

- 1 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:
- 2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

Remember who planted the vineyard? Who did all the work? Who prepared the soil? Who tilled?

What did the certain householder expect from the vineyard that he planted? A rich harvest of fruit, grapes!

Who does the vineyard specifically represent in this parable?

Isaiah 5:7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant..."

The vineyard is God's people. His church that He established through the blood of Jesus Christ in which Jesus is the Head.

What is the main purpose of the “vineyard”, God's people that He planted in midst of a sinful and corrupt world?

Isa 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Isa 43:10 Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Don't miss it: All who are called by God's name must display or be a witness of his name. That is how God gets the glory.

Name (Hebrew): an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character. [Strong's Hebrew Dictionary]

Appellation is a name given based on the character of the individual. This the reason why God has many names to describe the various attributes of his character.

For example: In the prophecy of the Messiah what is He called to that describes his character?

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

If you are called by Jesus name you must be a witness of his character.

God declares His glory as His character in Exodus 34:6,7

Exodus 34:6-7

6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

The glory of God is the character of God. All who are called by the name of Jesus must live the character of Jesus. This is the purpose of God's vineyard to bear the fruits of Jesus Christ to share to the world!

“As the Lord's vineyard they were to produce fruit altogether different from that of the heathen nations. These idolatrous peoples had given themselves up to work wickedness. Violence and crime, greed, oppression, and the most corrupt practices, were indulged without restraint. Iniquity, degradation, and misery were the fruits of the corrupt tree. In marked contrast was to be the fruit borne on the vine of God's planting.” COL 285

Fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The vineyard was not only to produce fruit but it was hedged round about, what does the hedge represent?

A hedge is a barrier such as a fence that is used as a boundary and protection.

The law of God, His Ten Commandments reveal sin and set the standard of righteousness.

1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Psa 119:172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness.

The commandments of God is a barrier of protection as a hedge around about a vineyard. As long as God's people within the vineyard of God stay connected to God producing the fruits of the Spirit of God and keeping the commandments of God they are protected from worldliness and destruction.

What is the result of going outside the barrier of God ten commandments?

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jas 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

If you are abiding in Christ and Christ abiding you, you will keep the commandments of God out of love.

Joh 15:10 *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

When you are in Christ you will NOT suffer the penalty of the law of God. You are living within the grace of God. But if you or I go outside the barrier of God's ten commandment law by disobeying God's law we are under the penalty of the law – eternal death.

How does Jesus put it?

John 3:17-21

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

“Christ was the leader of the children of Israel in their wilderness wanderings. Enshrouded in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, He led and guided them. He preserved them from the perils of the wilderness, He brought them into the land of promise, and in the sight of all the nations that acknowledged not God He established Israel as His own chosen possession, the Lord's vineyard.

To this people were committed the oracles of God. They were hedged about by the precepts of His law, the everlasting principles of truth, justice, and purity. Obedience to these principles was to be their protection, for it would save them from destroying themselves by sinful practices.” COL 287

Why does the certain householder put a wine press in the vineyard?

The winepress is a juicer that used to mash grapes in the press to squeeze out fresh grape juice! In ancient times they dug a pit in the vineyard and mash the grapes with their feet to squeeze out the juice into large vats.

Lesson: All those within the vineyard of Christ producing the fruits of Christ will be squeezed for the purpose of perfecting our characters for the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 5:1-4

- 1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- 3 And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
- 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Tribulation (Greek): thlipsis

Thayer Definition:

- 1) a pressing, pressing together, pressure
- 2) metaphorically oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straits

It is a pressure or testing of your faith... your fruit...

1Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Why did the certain householder build a tower in the vineyard?

A tower is a fortified structure rising to a considerable height, to repel a hostile attack or to enable a watchman to see in every direction [Thayer Greek Dictionary]

These towers were built around 20 feet to 80 feet high depending on the size of the vineyard to watch out for and defend against thieves, animals, and predators especially foxes. Foxes were known to steal and eat the grapes and destroy a vineyard if allowed in to stay.

King Solomon talks about these foxes in Songs of Solomon 2:15 "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes."

A watchman was to ever be vigilant on the watch tower not allowing anyone or animal to come in to steal the grapes and destroy vines.

What does the tower the parable represent?

"And as the tower in the vineyard, God placed in the midst of the land His holy temple.

Christ was their instructor. As He had been with them in the wilderness, so He was still to be their teacher and guide. In the tabernacle and the temple His glory dwelt in the holy shekinah above the mercy seat. In their behalf He constantly manifested the riches of His love and patience.

God desired to make of His people Israel a praise and a glory. Every spiritual advantage was given them. God withheld from them nothing favorable to the formation of character that would make them representatives of Himself. COL 287

The sanctuary in the wilderness was a model of the heavenly sanctuary. It was an illustration of the salvation of Jesus Christ and how to live a holy life with total victory over sin through the blood and power of Jesus Christ. The sanctuary message is a watchtower of truth to defend against sin. Those within the vineyard of Christ especially leaders and ministers are to be watchmen on the tower of truth to defend as "foxes", thieves, and predators that will bring in sinful ways that will destroy the fruit and the vines of the vineyard.

Who is our tower that was must dwell in constantly to have victory over sin?

Pro 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Psa 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalms 61:3-4

3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.

What instructions are we given while on the tower of truth in God's vineyard?

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Leaders and ministers who are drunk on the wine of Babylon while on the tower will allow the sins of Babylon to destroy the vineyard! This was the main problem of the leaders of Israel, they were drunk with the things of the world.

Who did God lend this beautiful grape vineyard to in the parable?

Mat 21:33 let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country

Husbandmen = land workers or farmers

“Let it out” = lease / rent

A lease is a contract by which one party conveys land, property, services, etc., to another for a specified time, usually in return for a periodic payment.

The contract of the lease: The owner who went into a far country contracted the farmers to take care of the vineyard so it can produce fruit for themselves and others.

Who do the husbandmen represent?

The husbandmen are the ministers, teachers, and leaders within the professed people of God to help create an environment that will produce spiritual fruit for the branches, God's people, who are connected to the vine Christ Jesus, the one true church of God!

What did the husbandmen do at the time of harvest?

Matthew 21:34-39

34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

39 And they caught him, and cast *him* out of the vineyard, and slew *him*.

Who are the servants that were beat and killed? Who is the son?

It is evident that the husbandmen wanted to brake the contract of the lease and steal the vineyard and keep the fruits from themselves!

Remember in this parable Jesus is talking to the leadership of Israel, the scribes, Pharisees, priest, and Sadducees. The vineyard represents the people of Israel as a whole and the husbandmen were the leadership of Israel including the teachers and ministers. The servants in the parable are obeying the command of the householder to come and collect the fruit of the vineyard. These servants represent the true prophets of God such as Elijah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and John the Baptist.

According to the Israel's history what did they do to God's true prophets when they wanted to continue in their rebellion? They persecuted or in some cases had them killed!

In this parable Jesus prophesied exactly what the Pharisee would do to Him, the Son of the Householder, God. He prophesied that they would kill Him!

What did Jesus ask the Pharisees concerning this parable thus far?

Mat 21:40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

What was Pharisee response?

Mat 21:41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out *his* vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

They condemned themselves!

Who did the Pharisees and the Jewish nation reject?

Matthew 21:42-44

- 42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?
 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.
 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

They rejected the cornerstone, Jesus! They refused fall on the Rock Jesus and be broken, meaning humble and submissive to the TRUTH. As a result, they are condemned because they rejected Christ as will be grind in to powder (self-destruction because of rejection)

Listen: Go through the “fire” or be burned by the “fire.”

Who did the Pharisee realize that the parable was talking about and what was their reaction?

Matthew 21:45-46

- 45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.
 46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

What are some more lessons that are taught by the parable of the vineyard?

Husbandmen = Farmers = Leadership

“The husbandmen who had been placed in charge of the Lord's vineyard were untrue to their trust. The priests and teachers were not faithful instructors of the people. They did not keep before them the goodness and mercy

of God and His claim to their love and service. These husbandmen sought their own glory. They desired to appropriate the fruits of the vineyard. It was their study to attract attention and homage to themselves.

The guilt of these leaders in Israel was not like the guilt of the ordinary sinner. These men stood under the most solemn obligation to God. They had pledged themselves to teach a "Thus saith the Lord" and to bring strict obedience into their practical life. Instead of doing this they were perverting the Scriptures." COL 292

Lesson: In rebellion and rejection of truth – ceremonies and buildings become more extravagant and costly!

“The Jewish leaders looked with pride upon their magnificent temple, and the imposing rites of their religious service; but justice, mercy, and the love of God were lacking. The glory of the temple, the splendor of their service, could not recommend them to God; for that which alone is of value in His sight they did not offer. They did not bring Him the sacrifice of a humble and contrite spirit. It is when the vital principles of the kingdom of God are lost that ceremonies become multitudinous and extravagant.

It is when the character building is neglected, when the adornment of the soul is lacking, when the simplicity of godliness is lost sight of, that pride and love of display demand magnificent church edifices, splendid adornings, and imposing ceremonials. In all this God is not honored. A fashionable religion that consists of ceremonies, pretense, and display, is not acceptable to Him. Its services call forth no response from the heavenly messengers." COL 297

[Show buildings of hospital, schools, conference offices... but continue in rebellion!]

[Show picture of Santa Clause in the church as Berean! Next sabbath extravagant communion service!]

Hosea 4:6-7

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: *therefore* will I change their glory into shame.

If it quacks like a duck and walks like a duck its a DUCK. If you talk like the world. Walk like the world. Believe like the world. If you excuse worldliness and sin. You are still in Babylon!

Show the picture of Babylonian ways... SDA corp church are drinking the wine of Babylon... If you drink like Babylon, dance like Babylon, preach like Babylon, music like Babylon, hospital like Babylon, school like Babylon, teach like Babylon, what does that make the corporate church who have rejected the three angel message – BABYLON! Get out of her my people!

1 Corinthians 10:20-21

20 But *I say*, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

The SDA corporate church today is a type of Israel that have gone down the same exact road of apostasy! Are you going to go down that road? Are you holding on to both law and testimonies. Ancient Israel was not prepare for the first coming of the Messiah. Today the SDA corp church and those who continue to keep their head in the sand are not prepared for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Are you going to bear fruit in Jesus true vineyard? Are you going to be a remnant standing on the mountain of truth in these last days?

You must bear fruit for the glory of God!

John 15:1-6

- 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- 5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

In order to bear fruit in the vineyard you must be by faith in the true vineyard of God producing the character of Christ by abiding in Him daily!

[Show illustration picture of abide in the vine and bearing fruit for the glory of God.]