



October 8, 2017 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: Abraham Lincoln: "My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right." The people in the parable seemed pretty convinced that they were in the right and that landowner was somewhat cheating them despite the fact that the opposite is true when one looks at it from an objective view. The landowner has gone above and beyond (he has done over 90% of the work). It seems that a lack of gratitude leads them to this horrible end.

Spiritual Questions

1. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you have to make a decision?
2. List all the things the landowner does in the parable.
3. Lists all the things that God has done for you.
4. What role does gratitude play in your life?
5. How can you increase the virtue of gratitude in our life.