

Our Lives Are Not About Us

Promise: Thankful, trusting tenants have a place in God's Vineyard

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 5:1-7; Ps 80:7-18; Phil 3:4b-14; [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

(18th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 22), 10/4/20)

And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him. — v. 44

Lead In – According to the Pew Research Center, in 2014 58% of Americans believed there is a hell, and 72% believed in heaven. Among those identifying as Christians, 70% believed in hell, and 85% in heaven. Polls also show that 2/3 of Americans believe when the die they will go to heaven, and something like only 1% think they are bound for hell. Given these realities, is it any wonder warnings of judgment are unpopular and becoming less likely to be heeded...

I. God Has Placed His People In A Fertile Vineyard

- A. The vineyard represents Israel, the chosen...
- B. A place of rest, enjoyment, and good work...
- C. We are tenants entrusted with stewardship...

II. We Will Be Held Accountable for Our Stewardship

- A. We are not the owners, but the tenants!
- B. The owner is looking for fruitfulness...
- C. Severe warnings! Lesser and greater JUDGMENT

III. Clarity On How We Are To Be Judged

- A. Bible has no trouble talking about works or fruits!
- B. Faith is a gift! But the baptized must exercise it...
- C. Faith in Christ is not lip service, but actual trust!

Parting Shot – Christ is the stone the builders rejected, but God has made him the cornerstone. That makes Christ God's judgment. We are all under his judgment. In the measure that we reject him or refuse to listen to him, we place our tenancy in jeopardy. And so the great question that arises from this parable is: How am I using the gifts God had given me for his purposes? Our lives are not about us!

Ps 80:8 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

Is 5:1-2 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

Ge 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Ep 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ps 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein

Ro 14:8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Matthew 21:33-46 ESV

The Parable of the Tenants

³³Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes"? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Is 5:7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Jn 15:2 Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Jn 15:6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Mt 7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Ph 2:12c-13, Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Mt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

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