

Remnant Life Church
October 22, 2017
The Parable of the Patient Landowner
Pt. 2
Matthew 21:33-44

READ – Matt 21:33-44

The Setting:

- This second parable of Jesus is presented in the style of an allegory
 - An allegory is a story where each character or primary component of the story represents someone or something real
- There are 6 allegorical meanings in this story
 1. The Landowner is God
 2. The vineyard is the nation of Israel
 3. The wicked tenants represent the Jewish religious leaders – the priests and people
 4. The servants sent represent the OT prophets
 5. The owner's son is Jesus
 6. The new tenants of the vineyard represent the true Church (including us today)
- In this parable we are given 4 foundational truths about the character of God and, with each truth, a lesson for us today

1. God is the owner

- **Lesson: I don't own anything; I just manage some of God's property (Sharecropper)**

2. God is patient

- **Lesson: God will send many messengers to communicate His will for my life**

3. God is love

- a. Having had no success with his servants the owner sends his son
 - i. Mark and Luke both call him "...a son whom he loved..."
 - ii. But instead of respecting him they see a way to get the land for themselves by killing the son
- b. The allegory is God sent the OT prophets to warn and instruct the Israelites
 - i. Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Joel; Obadiah, Nehemiah etc...
 - ii. In the span of over 400 years beginning with Elijah down to Malachi - but they would not listen
 - iii. They "killed" the message
- c. This parable clearly shows two things
 - i. First, the incredible love of God to continue coming after us
 - ii. Second, the total depth of the wickedness of man's heart when we reject Him

- d. **John 3:16** (Quote)
 - i. Our one and only God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son
 - ii. Did we embrace Him and fall at His feet to worship?
 - iii. No, like the tenants, our sin and selfishness resulted in His death on the cross
 - e. Yet even in our sin God continued and continues to pursue us!
 - i. **Rom 5:8** - ...*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - ii. We reject Him, He loves us more
- In the early 1960s, the publishers of Time Magazine were concerned about their declining circulation, so they designed a campaign to send out thousands of letters making an emotional appeal to potential subscribers. In the past, such mailings had been done manually, at a great cost in human resources. But about that same time, IBM was developing something called a computer, so they made a proposal to install a fully automated system that would write the letters, seal the envelopes, address them according to a selected database, stamp them and send them into the postal system all without the letters ever being touched by a human hand. The huge computer was installed with much fanfare and anticipation. However, as is still the case with computers, there was a glitch, and as a result a poor rancher in Wyoming received 12,634 letters appealing to him to subscribe to Time Magazine. The overwhelmed rancher, who didn't ordinarily get very much mail, opened the mail-bags and started opening the letters. After reading a few dozen, he hurriedly sent in a \$6 check for a subscription with a note comprised of only three words, "I give up!" That intensity of persuasion is hard to resist.
- **Lesson – God sent His Son in pursuit of me**
 - Think back to those God sent as His messengers to pursue you
 - Those situations that pointed you to Him
 - He is still in pursuit!
 - The intensity of His pursuit is because of His unfathomable love for you
 - *For God so loved THE WORLD...*
4. **God is just**
- a. After Jesus got done with the parable He asked the Jewish leaders what should be done with the wicked tenants
 - i. Get rid of the dishonest tenants and bring in new ones
 - ii. Their answer condemned themselves
 - iii. Jesus tells them plainly that the Kingdom will be taken from them (**21:43**)
 - b. They were the wicked tenants
 - i. They ignored the warnings of the servants (the OT prophets)
 - ii. They were going to kill the son (the Son of God)
 - c. God is patient, He is love, but He is also a God of justice
 - i. Less than 40 years later the temple and all of Jerusalem would be in heaps of ashes at the hands of the Roman army under General Titus
 - ii. From that time until the present the land of Israel has had virtually no peace

- iii. "...bring those wretches to a wretched end." (21:41)
- iv. Jerusalem suffered a wretched end

- **If I reject God's Son I will fall or come under His judgment**

- d. **Matt 21:43** – *Have you not read...?*
 - e. Jesus quotes **Psalms 118:22-23** - "*The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes*"
 - i. Many versions call it "the most important stone of all"
 - ii. The original Greek phrases it, "the head of the corner"
 - 1. Cornerstone was at the foundation
 - 2. The capstone was at the apex of the entrance
 - 3. Also called the keystone
- The "stone the builders rejected" is a reference to the building of Solomon's Temple. It took over 30,000 workmen over 7 years to complete the first temple. According to **1 Kings 6** all the stones were quarried far away from the building site, so there was no sound of hammering heard on the holy hill. Jewish tradition says in the early days of construction the chief builder saw a large stone with an unusual shape rolled on logs into the construction site. The stone was neither square nor rectangular. Because it was cut in an odd shape, he thought it was flawed. He had the workers roll it down the side of the hill into the Kidron Valley where it lay untouched and unnoticed for years. As he neared the completion of the Temple, the chief builder sent word to the quarry that he was ready for the main keystone to finish the arch marking the entrance to the Temple of God. The quarry master came and reported, "Why, I had that stone delivered years ago." When they began to search, they discovered the discarded stone in the valley was the keystone. It was covered with debris and dirt. It took many men to raise the massive stone out of the valley. When they raised it and set it, it fit perfectly! The keystone was the very stone they had rejected.
- f. Because the nation of Israel continued to reject God's Son, the heavenly stone, they fell under the just judgment of God
 - i. **Matt 21:44** - *Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.*
 - g. If we insist on continuing to reject God' Son – we too will face the judgment of, yes, a loving and patient, but also a just God
- Have you surrendered your life to the pursuit of God?
 - What kind of a steward are you being with the property of God that He is allowing you to care for?
 - What is your attitude to what God has given to you?
 - Are you a good sharecropper who gives back to the owner what He requires, not out of obligation, but out of gratitude?
 - Or are you like the wicked tenants who kept what was not theirs?
 - It is never too late to change from being a tenant to a sharecropper!