

# Parables

## The Terrible Tenants

Chase will Read: Mt. 21:33-46 NLT “Now listen to another story. A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country....”

NTS – Welcome to church everybody!

Today is July 3<sup>rd</sup>, tomorrow is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Kerri is who the daughter of an Air Force colonel has our house decorated with red, white, and blue! She is probably the most patriotic woman I know, and she is not shy about it. She has 38 flags up in our yard right now! Here, **I have a pic** for you.

- Kerri is the daughter of Air Force Colonel who was a pilot in the service.
- Kerri had 2 grandfathers who served in WW2 one died in the war and Her step grandfather was in the military also.

Recent poll – Are you proud to be an American? **Less than 40%** said yes. down **30% since 2011**.

**Our nation is in trouble with God.** It is possible in biblical history for nations to find themselves in trouble with God.

In the parable that Chase just read, Jesus was speaking to the spiritual and political leaders of a nation of Israel.

Jesus asked them, when the owner of the vineyard returns what should He do to those wicked tenant farmers? The leaders said, **he should kill them!** And lease the vineyard out to some other farmers who will give him the owner what is rightfully his!

**42** Then Jesus asked them, “Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’ **43** I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be **taken away** from you and given to a **nation** that will produce the proper fruit. **44** Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.” **45** When the leading priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they realized he was telling the story against them— **they** were the wicked farmers.

Jesus used this metaphor to show that one stone can affect people different ways.

- i) Some will love it and build their lives on it.
- ii) Others will trip over it and their lives will be broken into pieces
- iii) One day, at the last judgment, God’s enemies will be crush by it.

I want to say more about this but first, lets talk about **the Parables of Jesus**.

- The **telling of parables was very common in the days of the Jewish Rabbi’s**.
- The fullness of our Creator God is infinitely beyond human comprehension. But Jesus knew that God’s beauty, majesty and character could be accurately captured in the vivid word pictures of our human imagination.
- **So Jesus told stories!** He used the parables to **inspire and challenge** our **revelation and proper responses to God**.

**ONE-THIRD** of all the recorded sayings of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels are found in the parables.

To truly know and understand Jesus, we must know and understand His parables.

- In a typical parable of Jesus, you will generally find:

#### 5 Elements of a Parable.

- Revelation of God
- Word Picture Illustrating Real Life
- Human Reasoning
- One Main Point
- A Decision to be Made

#### The Parable of the Terrible Tenants.

The Parable of the Tenants is an allegory in which each of the elements has a symbolic meaning:

- 1) The owner of the vineyard is God.
- 2) The vineyard itself is the world He created.
- 3) The tenant farmers represented the leaders of the nation. Both the spiritual and political leaders of Israel.
- 4) The servants (who were killed) represent God's prophets.
- 5) The other tenants are most likely the church, which the Bible calls a Chosen Generation and a Holy Nation.
- 6) The Son who is killed in this parable is Jesus, the Messiah.

When studying the Parables or any passage its helpful to ask 3 questions:

- What does this teach us about God?
- What does it teach us about Man?
- What kind of Decisions need to be Made

#### What does this parable tell us about God?

- 1) God is the landowner. It all belongs to God.

Psalm 24:1.2 NLT The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. 2 For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.

- 2) God is the owner who prepared the ground and planted the vineyard. It all began with God.

Think of the Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God... created the heavens and the earth.

- 3) God shares his creation and his purpose with man. God loves to impart purpose to man.

Gen. 1:8,9 NLT Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden, he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen. 1:15 NIV The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

- 4) God expects fruit from His people.

Jesus mentions the word fruit 3 times in his story. (this is a story about WHAT a nation is producing for God)

Like a good business-person God expects a **Return On his Investment** (ROI)

- 5) **God is incomprehensively kind to His enemies. God is willing to forgive our rebellion for a season.**

**The landowner had no reason to be so longsuffering.** He gave them **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** chances.

- 6) **God will hold us all accountable.**

**Like the tenants, mankind has been in rebellion against God. The vineyard did not belong to the tenants, but to the master. And yet, the tenants did as they pleased. They kept the grapes for themselves.**

**The Garden of Eden did not belong to Adam and Eve. Yet they did as they pleased.** They took the fruit, which was not theirs.

**They took because they thought it make them like God. *Serpent said, you will be enlightened, you will be like God.***

**Self-deification** was the original sin.

### **What does this parable say to us about Man?**

**Our hunger for power, authority, money, and popularity makes us terrible tenants.**

- 1) Without God we have a propensity toward **self-deification.**

The Terrible Tenants rejected the Owners authoritative claims, attacked and even murdered those who represented the owners right and even the heir (the son) to the Kingdom.

- a) **Psychology Today** published a few years ago written by Jeremy E Sherman PHD titled:

**Disclaimer:** even though this was written in 2017 tongue and cheek, it still illustrates how many people in the political and social have elevated their enlightened self over God. Ironically the writer is using this piece to attack right winged opponents but this is actually the new religious of the secularist world-wide.

**Self-Deification!** *"There's no simpler, faster way to feel perfectly great about yourself!"* Jeremy E Sherman P

- Self-deification is fun, liberating and easy.
- It's fun because it makes you feel omniscient. It's liberating because it gives you an excuse for ignoring all the complications of life.
- It's easy because there are only three steps to self-deification.

Three steps?

- (1) **Have a Revelation!** "Wake up" to some universal truth, a formula for being right always. The best revelations reveal that the people who have it are like gods, in possession of a truth so important that it is their moral obligation to **attack** and **defeat** everyone who disagrees with it.
- (2) **Embrace Your Revelation!** Feel it. Absorb it. Love it. Promote it. Squeeze that revelation so hard that you feel like you have become as one with it. You are the revelation incarnate!!

- (3) **Trust Your Gut from Now On!** Having absorbed the revelation, you're now perfect, omniscient, nothing more to learn ever. From now on you can say and do anything. You may not be omnipotent yet, but you should be, you are god. And anyone who attacks you for what you do and say is attacking the sacred revelation you already embody perfectly. Therefore, it's your moral duty to attack and defeat them. Escalate freely. The bigger their challenge, the more vicious your attack. You are on a crusade because you have seen the light!

**Say and do anything!** After all, you're God. Everything you do from now on is for a good cause.

- b) The essence of all sin behavior is self-deification. Which is the passion to be our own god and be accountable to no one for no thing.
- c) We are no longer one "nation under God" we are a divided nation clashing around many self-made gods.
- 2) Without God our values are mis-aligned.
- a) We value our own agenda over truth, so honesty has a diminishing value.

According to a study done by professors from MIT Lab, false news stories are 70 percent more likely to be retweeted than true stories are. And it takes true stories about six times as long to reach 1,500 people as it does for false stories to reach the same number of people.

- b) We value our convenience and personal independence over the safety of others, so life has a diminishing value.
- i) The random acts of violence is too numerous to count.

In Venice California, a woman who was hit by a car while walking her eight-month-old in a stroller was caught on video. Since he was under the influence of marijuana and Xanax the 17yr old driver was sentence only to 5 to 7 months probation.

**NEXT MONTH – UNDER THE INFLUENCE SERIES** (how to live godly in world system that is under the influence an ungodly culture)

- ii) Gun violence is at all-time high.
- (1) Racial attacks spurred by hatred. Gang related attacks in the streets.
- (2) One week last month Sargent Newberg told me it was the week for deaths in Murfreesboro TN. He said they found more dead bodies than any other week he can remember.
- iii) Supreme Court overturns Roe V Wade and pro abortionist go violent attacks.
- (1) For the sake of transparency, it was only a few decades ago when some self-deified pro-lifers thought they has the moral authority to bomb legal abortion clinics.
- c) When leaders of the compromised church in America are more interested in building their own empires rather than the Kingdom, a love for Jesus has diminishing value.

- i) Jesus called out the Pharisees and Chief Priest who were both the religious and political leaders of the nation had already **decided to kill Jesus** because they were losing the grip of power and control over Jesus of Nazareth.
  - (1) It did not matter how many lepers and cripples were being healed, or blind eyes being opened. And, it didn't even matter that Jesus was raising the dead!
  - (2) Today in America we have some of the largest churches in the world and yet our influence in the nation is at all-time low. Because, our communities remain unchanged.
- ii) What's the problem? We are acting like owners and instead of stewards of God's kingdom.

And like Israel, America who once was a shining light is in danger of losing God's favor.

Our nation is stumbling over the stone, and we are broken into pieces. Hopefully we will not be crushed!

### What Kind of Decisions need to be made?

1) There are some encouraging wins for God's praying people.

a) WIN - Roe V Wade is huge win for pro-life believers. But this battle is not over.

i) By the way abortion is a rational act for a society that embraces self-deification.

**60 million babies have been killed since Roe V Wade decision. So much brokenness. If you have been wounded through having an abortion we love you and want to help you overcome any regret. We don't want you to feel judged and condemned in here. You belong here.**

ii) 4 reasons why abortion is wrong.

- (1) Existing fetal homicide laws make a person guilty of manslaughter if he kills the baby in a mother's womb (except if it is initiated by the mother in an abortion).
- (2) Fetal surgery is performed on babies in the womb to save them while another child the same age is being legally killed.
- (3) Living on its own is not the criterion of human personhood, as we know from the use of respirators and dialysis.
- (4) It's a baby.

I recently heard a story of mom who gave birth to a baby boy at 17 weeks old. The little boy was perfectly formed, his face was beautiful, his finger and toes all there at 17 weeks. And he breathed on his own for 4 hours trying to live.

Some people say its not a baby until it takes its first breath on its own. If that's the case then that 17 week old fetus was a baby for 4 hours and his mother mourned his death.

Over 60 million babies have been aborted since Roe V Wade. 89% the pregnancies that were terminated were due to what the bible calls fornication. Less than 3 % claim it was due to rape or incest.

- b) WIN - On June 21 the Supreme Court ruled that the state of Maine could no longer deny state funds to help with tuition for parents who need help paying for Christian School.

Judge Roberts said, "There is nothing neutral about Maine's program," he wrote. "The State pays tuition for certain students at private schools — so long as the schools are not religious. That is discrimination against religion."

- c) WIN - The Supreme Court ruled Monday that a school board in Washington state discriminated against a former football coach when it disciplined and fired him for postgame prayers at midfield.

"This is a tremendous victory for Coach Kennedy and religious liberty for all Americans," said Kelly Shackelford, president of the First Liberty Institute, which represented Kennedy. "Our Constitution protects the right of every American to engage in private religious expression, including praying in public, without fear of getting fired."

- d) Three Dynamic Decisions that need to be made.

Mt 21:42-44 ESV Jesus 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'? **43** Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. **44** And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

- i) Build your life on Christ as the Chief Cornerstone.

Get into His Word and live it. Get into a Church and serve it!

- ii) If it's not bearing fruit for God, put the activity in its proper priority.

There are so many things Christians are doing that are not helpful in this broken world.

- iii) Start Planting a Passion for God in the Vineyard of Your life.

Start Planting a Passion for God.

- (1) Start planting love, even in the fields of your enemies.
- (2) Start planting words that heal, even in the fields of scoffers.
- (3) Start planting good works, even in the fields of controversies.
- (4) Start planting prayer, even in the field of impossible barrenness.

This is God's Vineyard and it is our pleasure and joy to produce fruit for the Kingdom.

It is not your job to Crush your enemies, you are not the Rock, God is! Lets love others with the Passion that Jesus had for the lost.