

THEME: How Patient Is God?

April 7, 2019 – John 20:9-16 (NIV)

“He went on to tell the people this parable: - A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty handed. He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty handed. He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, What shall I do? I will send My Son, Whom I love; perhaps they will respect Him. But when the tenants saw Him, they talked the matter over. This is the heir they said, Let’s kill Him, and the inheritance will be ours. So they threw Him out of the vineyard and killed Him. – What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “May this never be!”

As Jesus tells this parable we might have some questions. Who / What Is the Vineyard in reference to?

The O.T. Prophet gives us some insight:

Isaiah 5:7 – “The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of HIS delight.”

The Vineyard is God’s people. Who is the Man that planted the Vineyard? It is the Lord Almighty.

Throughout the Scriptures the Lord God sent His Servants, HIS Prophets to preach the Word of God and to look for Fruits of faith. In both the Old and New Testament those preachers of the Word of God underwent some type of persecution. Some of those O. T. Prophets include: Daniel – Jeremiah – Isaiah – Elijah – 3 Men in the fiery furnace etc.

II Chronicles 36:15-17 – “The Lord, the God of their fathers sent word to them (Jerusalem / Judah) through His messengers again and again, because He had pity on His people and on His dwelling place. 16 – But they mocked God’s messengers, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets.”

The New Testament just began and we hear about Stephen and James:

Acts 7:58-59 – “While They were stoning Stephen, He prayed, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit, then he fell on his knees and cried out, Lord do not hold this sin against them.”

Acts 12:1-2 – “King Herod of Jerusalem, arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James the brother of John put to death with the sword.”

In the Old Testament, in time, God responded to the O.T. Prophets who were persecuted by His people:

II Chronicles 36:16-17 – “until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against His people and there was no remedy. 17 – He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon” 586 B.C.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, He proclaimed that the beloved city of Jerusalem would be destroyed: “As He approached Jerusalem, and saw the city, He wept over it and said, if you, even you had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you

to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." (Lk. 19:41-44)

In this parable of Jesus, we see the patience of God.

As Jesus tells this parable, He is actually calling those religious leaders and Jews to repentance. He calls them out. Jesus / God shows great patience and Love in His Call and went beyond by going to the cross in Love for ALL.

Jesus Calls us / each one of you to repentance with this parable.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, not only was He calling people to repentance, but He was supplying them and all mankind with the solution. The solution was Himself. He Who had kept the law perfectly on behalf of all mankind, would now be going to the cross of Calvary where He would bear the burden for all sin for all mankind for all time.

If someone killed our servants and our son, how would we react? At the very least, we would call the police and demand justice.

God place the punishment for sin upon His own Son, and there made the payment for all sin, and defeated sin, and death and the devil and won a place in heaven for His tenants.

Let us and all people never stop Publically praising Christ Jesus from the roof tops and in the Houses of Worship that God has so graciously provided for us as we thank Him for the salvation that Christ Jesus won! AMEN.