

## “THEY WILL RESPECT MY SON!”

By Keith Greer

During His public ministry, Jesus often spoke in parables. A parable is defined as, "that which denotes a placing beside, to throw or lay beside, to compare. It signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison." Some have even made it a little easier to understand by calling it "an earthly story, with a heavenly meaning." Let us look at one such parable.

"Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another" {Matthew 21:33-35} Such harsh treatment toward the landowner that had given them the job of taking care of HIS property! What did the landowner then do?

"Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. " {Matthew 21:36} When this happened, the landowner thought he had a plan to receive his due from these men. "Then last of all he sent his son to them saying, They will respect my son." {Matthew 21:37} What was the reaction of the vinedressers? "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance. 'So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him." {Matthew 21:38,39} What do you do to such men, who killed your son? The reaction came to those who heard Jesus speak,

"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." {Matthew 21:40,41} Surely, we can see the wisdom of this answer from an earthly viewpoint. Yet, what's the point Jesus is trying to make?

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" {Matthew 23:37} This is exactly what the Jews had done. Hear the words of Paul. " Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles." {Acts 13:46}

Do you see what the parable is all about? When Jesus left this earth, and the fulfillment of His promise came on the apostles, to whom did they go first with the gospel? The Jews! Yet, when they continued to reject Christ, and His teaching, we read in Acts 10 about Peter going to the Gentiles with the gospel! Why? "Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes!'" {Matthew 21:42} For you see, they had no more respect for His Son, than the unfaithful vinedressers had for the landowner's son, but killing God's Son, made our inheritance possible!

Sadly, this is also exactly what the world continues to do with God's Son. Man was in need of a remedy for their sin problem, unable to find a solution in human wisdom, God intervened and sent His Son. God's Son willingly left His home with His Father in heaven, came to this land of sin and sorrow, knowing all along His road would end at Golgotha, to provide man the divine remedy for their redemption and justification. Yes, He died as the ransom payment for sin, 2 Corinthians 5:21. Man now has a remedy.

Yet, what does the majority of the world do with this awesome and wonderful expression of love from Creator and sustainer of life? Reject it – Thanks be to God some have done better!

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