

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



Matthew 21:33–43

‘He will let out the vineyard to other tenants.’

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.” And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’

They 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.’

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 marvellous in our eyes”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.’

Reflection

In this parable, the vineyard has been carefully prepared, but the tenants forget that it was never really theirs. They become focused on keeping it for themselves rather than looking after what has been entrusted to them.

We can sometimes do the same. Our time, talents, opportunities and communities are gifts, but they are not just for our own benefit. Jesus calls us to use what we have to produce good things for others.

This is at the heart of Youth SVP. We are entrusted with the opportunity to make a difference, and our response is seen not just in what we say, but in the “fruit” we produce through our actions.

Activity

Give the group a few realistic Youth SVP situations, for example:

- You find out that a local food bank is struggling for donations.
- Someone in your school is regularly sitting alone at lunchtime.
- An elderly person in your parish has stopped coming to church because they are struggling to get there.
- Your group has raised some money but hasn't decided what to do with it.
- You have a group of volunteers who are keen to help but aren't sure what they can do.
- You know of a community project that needs volunteers during the holidays.

For each one, ask: “What could we actually do?” Give the group a few minutes to come up with practical responses, then ask which they could realistically take forward using the skills and resources that they have access to.

This links to the vineyard: God has entrusted things to us, but what matters is what we choose to do with them.

Call to Action

Think about an opportunity you’ve been given to help someone else, and take one small step to make the most of it this week.

