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Today for Seeking Truth we are going to look toward the Parable of the Landowner

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First, before we discuss a parable of old being added to by the Master of Parables - What is a Parable?

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A Parabole (par-ab-ol-ay’) or Parable- is a placing of one thing by the side of another, it is a juxtaposition or comparison, they call them similitudes or likenesses. But in the case of the parable of the landowner– it is an example by which a doctrine or teaching is shown with a story that is not real but is filled with picture words that explain human life, the kingdom of God, the nature of God and our relationship with God.

It is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

It can be quick and to the point instruction at times, these quick ones can be considered metaphors- because a parable is considered a longer type analogy or comparison in a story form. Sometimes it uses a known saying… but in the way our Savior used parables, it kept people in the dark that didn’t want to leave the dark and it caused people that had a glimpse of Light to wonder more and be drawn into the Light.

Our parable of Old is one a book of the Bible considered to be the little Bible within the Bible. Can anyone guess what book of the Bible that is?

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**Turn to Isaiah 5:1 we are going to keep this open in our Bibles as we move forward.**

Isaiah 5:1-7 NASB

**Parable of the Vineyard**

**5**Let me sing now for my well-beloved

A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard.

My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.

**2**He dug it all around, removed its stones,

And planted it with the choicest vine.

And He built a tower in the middle of it

And also hewed out a wine vat in it;

Then He expected *it* to produce *good* grapes,

But it produced *only* worthless ones.

**3**“And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,

Judge between Me and My vineyard.

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Isaiah 5:1-7 NASB

**4**“What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it?

Why, when I expected *it* to produce *good* grapes did it produce worthless ones?

**5**“So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard:

I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed;

I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground.

**6**“I will lay it waste;

It will not be pruned or hoed,

But briars and thorns will come up.

I will also charge the clouds to rain no rain on it.”

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**7**For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel

And the men of Judah His delightful plant.

Thus He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed;

For righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress.

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We are all going to break down this parable together. Please keep Isaiah open and compare this as it goes on – see the similarities and see where Jesus added to this parable.

Matthew 21:33-46

**Parable of the Landowner**

**33**“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. **34**When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. **35**The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third.

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Matthew 21:33-46

**Parable of the Landowner**

**36**Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. **37**But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ **38**But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ **39**They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

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Matthew 21:33-46

**Parable of the Landowner**

**40**Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?” **41**They \*said to Him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the *proper* seasons.”

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Matthew 21:33-46

**Parable of the Landowner**

**42**Jesus \*said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures,

‘The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the chief corner *stone*;
This came about from the Lord,
And it is marvelous in our eyes’?

**43**Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.

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Matthew 21:33-46

**Parable of the Landowner**

**44**And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”

**45**When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. **46**When they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.

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Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus is taking a parable of old – to speak to Jewish leaders – this was one they recognized from Isaiah’s writings.

But the Word made flesh – the God who gave Isaiah this parable was going to break it down for them…

First who is the Landowner – God – the creator of all things – John 1:1 *(this is kind of tricky – Jesus is God and is the creator with the Father and Holy Spirit and is the Son – see if anyone catches that)*

**The Deity of Jesus Christ**

**1**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **4**In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. **5**The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

We first see that He rented it to the vine-growers – who are these vine- growers? *(Pharisees)*

Then harvest time approaches – think about that - first we have to realize that Jesus said that the Landowner sent His slaves – who are God’s slaves? These are true followers, the Old Testament prophets.

In Marks account of this in chapter 12:2-5 we see **2**At the *harvest* time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive *some* of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers. **3**They took him, and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. **4**Again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. **5**And he sent another, and that one they killed; and *so with* many others, beating some and killing others. This points more directly to treatment of OT prophets shown in 1 Kings 22:24; 2 Chronicles 24:20, 21; 36:15,16; Nehemiah 9:26; Jerimiah 2:30.

Jesus knowing all time spoke to things written in the historical books that these vine-growers studied.

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What do you all see here… ?

The Landowner sent His Son? – This parable becomes prophetic – Jesus is the Son. Think about this implication – Jesus was saying that these Jews were seeking His inheritance… what is the Sons heritance… in the vineyard it is the harvesting of grapes – in life it is? *(The people)*

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Woe – what is the parable revealing to us here?

The Jewish Leaders condemned themselves – they spoke the judgement that Jesus had for them – the woe… His Kingdom – the trust of the vineyard would be taken and given to other vine-growers – who would seek the will of the owner. The other vine-growers would symbolize the church that is predominantly gentile.

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Why do you think Jesus quoted this piece of Psalm 118? A Psalm of Thanksgiving for the Lord’s Saving Goodness.

Jesus was strongly stating that He was the Cornerstone – the one killed and thrown out of the vineyard – would be the One – that would be built upon for His redemptive plan for mankind.

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What do you think about this closing statement in the parable?

Let’s have Peter explain it for us….

**1 Peter 2:4-11**

**4**And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, **5**you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6**For *this* is contained in Scripture:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner *stone*,
And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

**7**This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

“The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the very corner *stone*,”

**8**and,

“A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

**9**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God’s* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10**for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**11**Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. **12**Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Wow God’s word is powerful!