

Date: 6/25/17 RBC SF3008

Title: The Danger of Rejecting Christ

Text: Matthew 21:33-46

I. GOD HIMSELF ESTABLISHED THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The owner of the vineyard has it properly planted and all its arrangements completed before he sends husbandmen into it. Israel was established to bring Jesus into the world.

II. GOD ENTRUSTS THE WORK OF HIS VINEYARD TO MEN

There is work for God to be done in his kingdom. This is a high privilege, and it carries with it a grave responsibility. God will not have the just return for all his gifts if his husbandmen are not faithful in his service. The Jewish leaders were God's husbandmen. So are Christian workers today.

III. GOD EXPECTS FRUITS FROM HIS VINEYARD

God gives freely; but he looks for a return. It is not that he needs anything. But he does not desire his work to be wasted. He asks for grapes where he has planted a vine. This, then, is the one question for the Church, - Is it bearing fruit? By so doing it can glorify God.

John 15:8 - This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

IV. THE MESSENGERS OF GOD HAVE BEEN SHAMEFULLY TREATED

Evidently the servants represent the prophets of ancient Israel, ending with John the Baptist, who was beheaded, though not by the Jews.

V. THE ADVENT OF CHRIST IS A MARK OF GOD'S LONG SUFFERING PATIENCE

The owner of the vineyard would try a last means. He would see if the husbandmen would reject his son. It was a great risk to run; but the fruit was precious, and the vineyard was worth rescuing from those who usurped the rights of ownership. God would not east out Israel till Christ had come. But now Christ has come to us as God's last Messenger.

VI. THE REJECTION OF CHRIST IS A FATAL SIN

After the husbandmen had killed the heir to the estate, no more patience could be shown to them. They had filled up their cup of guilt to the brim. They had rejected the last and greatest message from their Master. To be cast forth and destroyed is their rightful doom. This doom came upon the leaders of Israel in the overthrow of Jerusalem by Titus. It awaits those false and traitorous leaders of the Church who repeat the sin of the Hebrew hierarchy. It awaits all who work in the midst of the privileges of Christendom without rendering any fruit to the glory of God.

VII. THE DOOM OF THE FAITHLESS IS FOLLOWED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW WORKERS

Gentiles took the place of Jews. God's work cannot stand still. He will have fruit - if not through our agency, then by other means. When the official leaders of the Church are unfaithful, God sets them aside, so that, though their doom is postponed, they are really no longer entrusted with any powers by God.