

Luke 20:9-18

"What Shall I Do?"

THE POINT OF PARABLES

- **Gk. *parebolē*** - *para* "alongside" + *ballō* "to throw" = "to place alongside with"
- **Matthew Henry** - says parables make the things of God "*more plain and easy*" to those willing to be taught, and "*at the same time more difficult and obscure to those who [are] willfully ignorant.*"
- **Sinclair Ferguson** "*Jesus tells us parables to probe inside us to see whether we really understand the gospel, and whether the gospel is really beginning to transform our lives.*"
- **RC Sproul** - "be careful in finding too many allegorical meanings."
- Land-owner - God
- Vineyard - Nation of Israel. Ref. **Jeremiah 2:21; Hosea 10:1**
"Israel's place of privilege" **Philip Graham Ryken**
- Tenants - Sanhedrin, Israel's religious leaders
- Servants - Prophets
- Son - Christ

THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S "VINEYARD" vv.9-10a

- Fruit represents obedience. Ref **Galatians 5:22-23**
- God never "plants" unintentionally. Ref. **Matthew 21:33; Mark 12:1**, WCF Ch. 3
- God entrusts His people to faithful stewards Ref. **Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3**

THE PERSECUTION OF GOD'S MESSENGERS vv.10b-12

- Rebellion grew increasingly worse. Ref. **Romans 1:24-32**
- In rejecting the messenger they were rejecting God. **John 5:23b**
- Expect persecution. **John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:12**
- No repentance. Ref. **Psalms 51; 2 Corinthians 7:10**

"Rebelled against God's lawful authority, refused to give Him His rightful dues, rejected the council of His prophets, and at length crucified, His only-begotten Son" **J.C. Ryle**

THE PERVERSITY OF MAN v.13-16

- God's moves toward us in love. Ref. **Luke 3:22; 9:35; John 3:16**
- Mankind responds in violence. Ref. **Acts 7:51-53**
- "**Surely not!**" Desired to escape the authority of the Lord. Ref. **Psalms 2:1-3; Matt. 27:18**

"What made them angry was not the death of the beloved son, but the warning that they would lose their place of spiritual leadership." **Philip G. Ryken**

GOD'S FINAL JUDGEMENT vv.15b-18

- Many are looking for "their Jesus". Ref **1 Corinthians 1:22-24**
- Mankind is not without warning. Ref. **Acts 17:31; WCF 33.1, Revelation 22:20 WCF 33.3**

APPLICATION

- Ultimately, everyone must ask the question as that of the Landowner, "***What shall I do?***"

Heidelberg Catechism Q52:

What comfort is it to you that Christ will come to judge the living and the dead?

In all my sorrow and persecution I lift up my head and eagerly await as judge from heaven the very same person who before has submitted Himself to the judgment of God for my sake, and has removed all the curse from me.[1] He will cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but He will take me and all His chosen ones to Himself into heavenly joy and glory.[2]

[1]

Luke 21:28

28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Rom. 8:22-25

22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Phil. 3:20-21

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Tit. 2:13-14

13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

[2]

Matt. 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

1 Thess. 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

2 Thess. 1:6-10

6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.