

From Fr. Mike's Desk

As we listen to the first reading for this week, and the Gospel that matches it perfectly, we could be very complacent in paying attention to them; but we must not make this mistake. Isaiah tells us in the Song of the Vineyard how disappointed the owner of the vineyard is with its yield. The owner did everything for the vineyard to make sure all would be fine. Yet when he comes to pick the grapes, the owner finds wild grapes, good for nothing. Isaiah plainly tells us that the owner is God Himself, and the vineyard is Israel. God is disappointed because He looks for wise judgment and sees only bloodshed; likewise, He looks for justice but finds only the outcry of sin, death and darkness.

As we read the Gospel, we can guess that the servants of the property owner were the prophets who were mistreated, and in some cases killed. We of course can identify the son of the landowner as none other than Jesus. Listen to what Jesus says to the Priests and the Elders, after He asks them what should the owner do to the tenant farmers? By their own testimony, they told Jesus that the owner should remove those wicked men and lease his vineyard to new tenants. So Jesus tells them plainly, “...the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to people that will produce its fruit.” The leaders and the people of the Church will replace the leaders of Israel. We are the new tenants and our command is to produce much fruit.

We cannot take this invitation lightly, nor should we say, “oh well we know this already, so what else is new?” No, we must actively live out this calling and approach it every day as if it were the first time we heard the invitation. So how do we accomplish this? Most certainly, with

the help of God, we can and should follow the advice that St. Paul gives to the people of Philippi: “*Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise think about these things. Keep on doing what have you learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.*”

Please keep in your prayers our young people who will receive Confirmation on Saturday, October 28. May they always follow Paul's advice as they receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

God bless you always and thank you for all you do for our beautiful parish.

Fr. Mike

