

Dear Families:

Today we continued our study of the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus is taking on the role of teacher. He teaches using this parable:

Once there was a master who owned a vineyard. He hired some workers to tend to the vineyard while he traveled to a far-off land. The workers did as they were told, and after a while, the grapes were beautifully ripened and ready to pick. The master wanted to hear about the progress of the harvest, so he sent three servants to inquire. When the workers saw the servants coming, they decided to attack them. That way they could keep the profits for themselves. One servant was killed, one beaten and one stoned. The servant who was beaten returned to the master and told him what had happened. So the master sent a larger group of servants. They, too were attacked and killed. The master thought to himself, "This time, I will send my son. Surely they will listen to him." When the workers saw the son approaching, they decided to kill him, too, so the vineyard could not even be inherited and they would have total control. Jesus then asked, how do you think the master dealt with these evil workers? The chief priests who were listening answered that the master would surely put those wretched workers to death and hire new workers who would give him the fruits of their labor. Jesus reminded them of a passage from Isaiah: The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. Then he said, so the kingdom will be taken from you and given to people who produce the fruits of it.

This story is a great lesson. We cannot become so concerned with our benefit that we ignore God. If we ignore his prophets and His Son, we do so at our peril. The kingdom of God is for those who follow His commands, who work for the Lord, who bear His fruits. Who are you working for? Are you working for God, or yourself? We talked about these questions this week, and listed some of the jobs God has given us in His word. Hopefully we will remember that God is the ultimate authority. If we do not listen to His messages and work for Him, we will lose the kingdom of Heaven that He so graciously offers us. It would not be God's fault; we would lose it by our own choice.

Thank you for joining us today!

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