

Dear Families:

In class today, we read a parable from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus tells the chief priests and pharisees this story: a lord built a beautiful vineyard. He worked the land carefully, added all of the latest technology, and built a watchtower over it all. He then went to a distant land, leaving tenants behind to care for his domain. When harvest time neared, the lord sent servants to get the grapes for the landlord. The tenants beat, killed and stoned the servants! So the landlord sent his son, saying that surely they would show him respect. But when the tenants saw the son, they decided to kill him as well, so they could claim the land as their own. What happened when the lord returned? He rounded up the unfaithful tenants and put them to death. He then gave his land to new tenants who will not be so greedy.

Jesus reminded the scribes that the scriptures say, "the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing." The scribes then knew that Jesus had been talking about them. They had been entrusted by God to do His work, but instead they got greedy and thought only of themselves. They thought that since God wasn't physically there, that they deserved to take what was His. As a result, God took the kingdom away from them, giving it to people who follow His will faithfully.

We need to remember to reject ourselves and accept God. Even though we cannot see God, He is watching, and He will return. We cannot take His glory as our own. We have been hired to do His work; may we do His work faithfully!

This morning's lesson continued our theme of what it means to be part of a church family. We have been given work to do by God himself; let's work together to accomplish as much as possible! We celebrated communion this week. Next week will be our congregational dinner. The Sunday School will prepare a recipe for all to share. We hope you can join us for this special time of fellowship!

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan

CE Director