

## The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Mt.21:33-42

Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? (KJV)

God's Holy Church proclaims the Holy Gospel at each Divine Liturgy. Proclaiming the Gospel intends nourishment and positive change among attentive listeners.

Believers do well to pray to the Lord God for the necessary understanding and application in daily life. Believers benefit when actively incorporating the Gospel lesson in daily life.

Having the Gospel available each day provides nourishment for the soul. The Gospel provides wise guidance and application for daily life. The Gospel helps believers address personal concerns and issues.

The Lord God created this earth with human beings in positions of authority and responsibility. Persons living on the earth have the responsibility to live in ways pleasing to the Lord God.

God expects the earth's residents to treat each other with love and care and to be at peace with each other. God's gifts, treasures and labor's fruits are to be shared and used for the glory of God.

Contemporary life shows that God is rejected by large portions of society. Violence, greed and corruption are common. God's Holy Church is subject to persecution. God's teachings are challenged and rejected,

Serious believers are faced with the necessity of remaining firmly united with Christ in the current environment. Until Jesus Christ's Second Coming and the Final Judgment, believers are expected to remain faithful.

The present Gospel is clear the householder was not respected by those entrusted with the care of the vineyard. The earth's residents do not show widespread love and respect of the Lord God.

Use of the earth's resources and labor's fruits do not reflect prevailing love and respect for the Lord. Bringing life on earth into conformity with the Lord's teachings is a daily challenge.

Faithfulness to Jesus Christ is fostered, supported and encouraged in God's Holy Church. The Church is where believers hear the Gospel with regularity. The Church is where believers benefit from the Church's teachings.

The present Gospel is clear the householder will return and take control of the vineyard. The current Gospel describes the disrespect shown to the householder by those entrusted with the care of the vineyard.

Believers are entrusted with the care of their communities and parish churches. Believers are entrusted with the responsibility of caring for their families and for their own souls. Christians hold positions of leadership and responsibility.

Christians live and work in communities and are expected to live in ways pleasing to the Lord. Christians commit their whole lives to Jesus Christ at baptism and are to honor that commitment in all aspects of life.

Church officers and leaders are to be fully faithful to Christ. Clergy are to be completely faithful to Christ. Christian parents, workers and community residents are to be faithful to Christ in every thought and action.

The way daily life is lived creates a record for Christ's Second Coming and the Final Judgment. The way labor's fruits are managed and personal talents and gifts are utilized will affect the eternal outcome at the Final Judgment.

Each day the earth moves closer to Jesus Christ's return and Final Judgment. Each day is the opportunity to repent and bring life into conformity with Christ's teachings/

Communities, parishes, families and individuals are challenged by the present Gospel to determine if they are in conformity with Christ's teachings. The Lord grants life to communities, parishes, families and individuals.

The Lord is to be honored, loved and respected at all times. Daily actions will reflect the degree Christ is honored, loved and respected. Keeping life in conformity with Christ is possible.

Repentance and redirection toward the Kingdom of God are always possible. Wise use of God's resources occurs when the Holy Gospel serves as the constant daily guide.

God is a good and loving God. God's love is shown in the entrustment of the vineyard to the care of the inhabitants. Grateful earth's inhabitants show gratitude to God in the use of earthly life, relationships and resources.

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The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Miracle of the Holy Archangel Michael. Holy Martyr Eudoxius. September 6/19, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.  
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