

Sunday 4th October 2020
Listen to God's Message



Gather Together...

Take time together as a family, find a quiet space, perhaps play some music, light a candle and sit comfortably.

Make the Sign of the Cross

Listen Together...

Listen to this week's scripture, from the Gospel according to Matthew...

Jesus told another parable to the people. 'There was once a farmer who owned a vineyard. He had to go away on some business so he put some farm workers in charge of the vineyard.

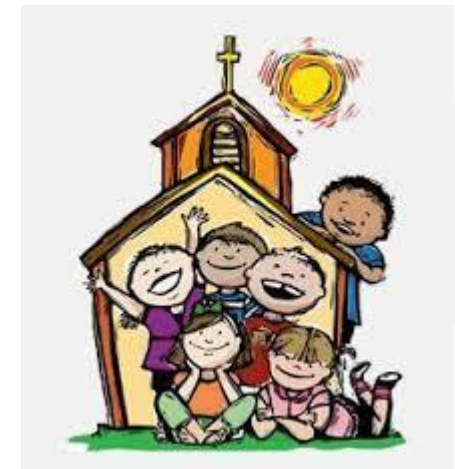
When it was time to harvest the grapes, the farmer sent some servants to collect his share. But the farm workers beat the servants and chased them away.

The farmer did not give up and sent some more servants to collect what was his. This second group of servants was again beaten and chased away.

Finally, the farmer sent his own son thinking that they would not dare hurt him. Instead, the farm workers seized and killed the son.

Jesus asked those who were listening, 'What will the farmer do when he arrives at the vineyard?'

Those who were listening answered, 'He will punish the farm workers and put other people in charge of his vineyard.'



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Respond Together...

- Try to imagine that the vineyard Jesus spoke of in his story is the whole world. Who would be in charge of it all? God would be because he made the world and everything in it. He is like the farmer in the story and is trusting us to take care of his world, just like the farmer trusted his workers.
- What happened when the farmer sent his servants to the vineyard? They would not listen and chased the servants away. In the Old Testament, we can read lots of stories about God sending messengers to his people. Those messengers were called prophets and God used them to make sure his people knew how they should behave and what the right things to do were.
- Did people in the Old Testament treat prophets as badly as the farm workers in our story treated the servants? Lots of people chose to ignore the warnings of the prophets. They thought they knew best and did not listen to anyone who tried to tell them differently.
- In the parable God is compare with the farmer. Who do you think we compare the farmers son with? It's Jesus! God sent his son into the world just as the farmer in the story sent his son to the vineyard. Some people listened to Jesus but many didn't want to hear what he had to say and put him to death. We need to remember that the Kingdom of God will be taken from those who don't listen and given to those who live as God wants.

Pray Together... Lord, help me to listen to your message. Please help me to understand what you are telling me and to follow your way so that I can share in your Kingdom. Amen.