

Do Much

Isaiah 5: 1-7 and Matthew 25: 31-46 - July 2020

Let Us Pray...Dear Lord, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you. Amen.

In our lesson from Isaiah that Bill just read.

“What more is there to do for my vineyard that I have not done? When I expected to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?”

Do you think God looks down on us and says this?

Do you think God may be saying:

“I’ve done all this, and this is how they behave?

This is how they treat one another?

I planted grapes and I got wild grapes”

Think about that.

Let’s look at our Gospel Lesson from Matthew. And a quick warning,

I’m going to jump back and forth between these two readings, this morning.

And in this the 25th chapter of Matthew, Jesus is describing the Kingdom of heaven.....He proclaims, it is at hand.

And in this Gospel Lesson, there are (3) obvious points made clear to us:

1. There will be a 2nd coming of Christ.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of glory.”

2. There will be a final judgement...a final separation.

“All the nations will be gathered before him and he will separate people from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will put the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.”

3. There are (2) eternal kingdoms

Eternal punishment...eternal fire...hell

Or the joy of paradise...eternal life...heaven

The great danger of our religion....is that it is a religion of empty words.

I know I speak about this a lot...mainly because I need to hear it-

But I don't think God is concerned with what we wear to church

I don't think God is concerned with our words or phrases.

I believe that God is concerned with our deeds...

our actions...our doings!

Do our every day deeds show any signs of our Christian faith?

Do our everyday actions show the of Jesus' teachings?

Do our everyday doings show that we are influenced by Christ?

Let me refer back to our lesson from Isaiah this morning.

The story of the vineyard.

The man did all the preparation; he picks out a fertile hill,

He digs and cleaned it from stones;

And he plants it with CHOICE vines. The best quality grape vines.

What does he get?

(Pause) Wild Grapes....No Hope.

(Pause) God is concerned with the products of our life.

What use are we making of our “God Given” talents?

Do we love much?

Do we forgive much?

Do we feed the starving?

Do we clothe the naked?

Do we visit the sick? Do we visit those in prison?

Are we the salt of the earth?

Do we show compassion, do we show kindness? Justice, righteousness?

Do we...Do Much?

(Pause) Jesus is looking for good grapes.

He's looking for the good product in each of us.

He's looking for signs of a new mankind, a new creation in each of us.

Jesus is looking for justice and righteousness.

God has done all this work to his vineyard... Earth!

He's prepared it.

(Pause) He sent His only Son to teach us.

He sent His only Sone to pray for our sins.

(Pause) He sent His only Son to die for our sins.

And what is his result? What has his vineyard yielded?

(Pause) Wild Grapes!

A people who don't understand the eternal paradise,
that he is trying to re-establish.

God's vineyard has produced a people who don't see their
relationship to the Kingdom of Heaven.

God's vineyard doesn't see that the Kingdom of God is at hand!

Remember the parable of the talents?

"Master, I saved your talent, I preserved it, I kept it safe...it's never been used"

God DID'T GIVE US GIFTS AND TALENTS TO WASTE!

God is looking for signs of a new mankind. Us!!!

That Jesus had some influence on us.

An influence on how we live and what we do and
what we contribute to society...(pause) to the world!

The final judgement is not based on our words or good intentions.

It's based on what we have actually done!

Have we shown love, kindness forgiveness?

Have we helped our fellow man?

In our lesson from Matthew; the parable of the final judgement,

Those who are received into the Kingdom of Heaven,

are those who did good:

They fed the hungry....they clothed the naked....

They visited the sick...they welcomed the stranger

They showed mercy and love!

They gave of themselves!

(pause) They reflected the spirit of Jesus Christ.

(pause) Now, those who were rejected...did none of these things

There's one very interesting aspect of this account, this parable.

(Pause) the sheep and the goats, ask the same question.

Verse 44; “Lord when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?”

(Pause) So we can see where the “goats”, “the wild grapes”

and those destined to eternal punishment, may ask this question.

Right? These are people who don’t do the work of God.

They just don’t get it!

These are the people who don’t use their God given talents to do good.

These are people who don’t act in the teachings of Jesus.

(Pause) But why would the “sheep”, the righteous and those destined to life eternal ask this same question?

“Lord when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?”

I think it’s because, this is the picture of a new mankind.

A people that does good naturally.

A mankind that are loving naturally.

A society, that is forgiving, naturally.

They have matured into good grapes, nothing bad or evil about them.

They are good!

This is a people who are unconscious of the good they are doing.

They are good...it’s simply their nature.

They don’t even know they’re doing good...it’s natural.

They see someone in trouble...they help.

If they know someone is sad or alone, they visit.

The ways of Jesus...the ways of the Kingdom of God-
are a part of their very fiber, their make-up!

The law of God, has been written on their heart.

They are the salt of the earth.

They are the good grapes!

We are a people who need to love much;

Because we have been loved so much!

We are a community, a society that needs to forgive much;

Because we have been forgiven much!

We are a mankind that needs to do much;

Because much has been done for us.

So what do we do?

There's so many deeds that need to be done it can be overwhelming.

Remember the story of the starfish thrower.

There was a young boy walking along the beach picking up

Star fish and throwing them into the sea.

You see, there was a viscous storm the night before

And it washed up thousands of starfish on the beach.

As the boy was throwing them back in the ocean one by one,

An elderly man came up to him and asked what he was doing.

The boy replied:

“the sun is coming up and if these star fish don't get back

In the water, they'll die”

And the man replied:

“son do you realize, there are hundreds of miles of beach

And thousands of starfish on each mile...

You can't possibly make a difference.”

The boy bent over, picked up a starfish and threw it into the ocean.

He looked up at the old man and said:

“I made a difference to that one!”

(Pause) we need to be doers....and do much!

“When I expected to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?”

We need to be good grapes!

God has not done all this work...Jesus was not crucified

to produce sour grapes!

Amen.