

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Get Real - Part 3

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Introduction

During the last week of Jesus' ministry, He was teaching at the Temple of Jerusalem when the leading priests and elders approached and asked "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?" (Matthew 21:23). These leaders were respected by society; they had studied the Torah and could recite the prophets' scrolls (the Old Testament) by heart. Yet when the Son of God was in their presence, fulfilling the law and the prophets, they rejected Him, resulting in the Kingdom of God being taken away from them (v.43). They thought they were doing God's work, but this is not how history portrays their ministry.

Read

Matthew 21:33-46

Discuss

1. In the context of the parable, who or what is represented by the landowner, the vineyard, the tenants, the servants, and the son? Can you think of examples from the Old Testament when a servant of God is mistreated?
2. Pastor Dale explained that we are tenants in a world God created, and His provision is super-abundant. What are some practical examples of us, as tenants, taking God and His provision for granted? Why do we push back against God?
3. Why did the landowner send his servants? How many times did he try to intervene with the tenant farmers? What did the farmers do and why? How might you have responded in this situation?

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4. God is patient and persevering. How can we be more attentive to His intervention in our life?
5. Read verse 40-44. Considering that this conversation happened on the last week of Jesus' ministry, what is your understanding of this conversation between Jesus and the leading priests and elders? What do you think Jesus is trying to say to them?
6. Pastor Dale mentioned that when we still live in and are bound by sin, we are like the wicked farmers. We need to pay attention to God's intervention through Jesus, so that we do not miss the opportunity to receive Him and produce the fruit of God's Kingdom. How are you really going with Jesus? Is there an area in your life that He is wanting you to address today?

Respond

Jesus is our Cornerstone and everything in our life needs to be built around Him. The leading priests and elders in the New Testament focused on their religious laws and elite social status to the extent that they missed the opportunity to experience the grace and love of Jesus. If you are yet to open your heart to Jesus, the Son of the Landowner, He is waiting for you to repent and to finally let Him in. *(Note for leaders: this is a great opportunity to make room for the Holy Spirit to move. If there are any in your group who want to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour, please lead them in prayer.)*

What is it that you can do this week to get real in your faith journey? Pray together as a group for the intervention and prompting of the Holy Spirit.