

Introduction

1. Read 11:27-33. The group that confronted Jesus on Monday = Sanhedrin, v. 27. ([Show](#))¹
 - a. 70 Jewish leaders composed highest spiritual & legal authority in Judaism.
 - b. They were the primary antagonists to Jesus (included Pharisees & Sadducees).
 - c. As much as any other encounter, this shows how phony & inauthentic they were.
 - d. Their answer to Jesus' question about John the Baptist was crystal clear in minds.
 - e. They did not believe his authority came from heaven. They rejected him & his witness.
 - f. But they needed the support of the people to maintain their position & wealth from it.
 - g. So they cowardly w/drew from the debate they started by feigning ignorance of answer.
 - h. Look here. Greater group of religious charlatans has probably never been assembled.
 2. But can give credit one thing. Jewish leaders not spiritual men, but knew what issue was.
 - a. Jesus' authority. His sovereignty over Israel.
 - b. By riding into Jerusalem day before & cleansing Temple Jesus asserting His authority.
 - c. Did you notice word authority in this debate occurs 4xs? It was the issue.
 3. It's the issue for us too, isn't it? Will we accept Jesus' authority over our little kingdoms?
 - a. Perhaps no booklet put it so well as CRU's 4 Spiritual Laws. There are 2 circles.
 - b. 1st = Self-directed life. ([Show](#))² 2nd = Christ-directed life. ([Show](#))³ Then the question:
 - c. Which circle best represents your life? ([Show](#))⁴ This is always the issue.
 4. After this encounter Jesus told parable to get Jewish leaders to think. ([Show Title & Text.](#))
 5. Jesus loved them & wanted them to surrender to Him. 4 reasons to yield our lives to Jesus.
- I. **God's Goodness, v. 1.**
- A. Goodness to Israel
1. Jesus referring to Isaiah 5. God described Israel as vine planted in lovely vineyard.
 - a. Vry temple where Jesus stood = brilliant, golden vine sculpted on it few ft. from top.
 - b. ([Show](#))⁵ Vine = sacred symbol to every Jew of their special relationship to God.
 2. Parable's symbols: Owner = God, Vine = Israel, Tenants = Jewish leaders.
 3. Point: God did everything could make Israel all ought be – fruitful, productive witness.
 - a. Chose Abraham & set His love/favor on him. Protected Israel in Egypt for 400yrs.
 - b. Delivered them with powerful miracles in the 10 Plagues.
 - c. Gave them the Law at Mt. Sinai – hedge protected & kept them safe in God's will.
 - d. Thru Joshua planted them in Canaan, Ps. 44:2, the land of milk & honey.
 - e. Gave them judges, kings, priests, prophets to make nationally/spiritually strong.
 - f. With such incredible goodness they should've surrendered in faith to Jesus.
- B. Goodness to Us
1. Has God been good to us? Romans 2:4 is one of my favorite verses. ([Show](#))⁶

¹ Jesus Before Sanhedrin by Jacques Tissot. <http://christinprophecy.org/wp-content/uploads/Sanhedrin.jpg>. 7/7/17.

² <http://www.4laws.com/laws/englishkqp/images/law4.1.gif>. Accessed 7/7/17.

³ <http://www.4laws.com/laws/englishkqp/images/law4.2.gif>. Accessed 7/7/17.

⁴ Both circles. <https://img.wikinut.com/img/3hxvirz7ex8ps4m9/jpeg/700x1000/Where-are-you-today.jpeg>. 7/7/17.

⁵ <http://members.bib-arch.org/sites/default/files/bsba420105500l.jpg>. Accessed 7/6/17.

⁶ <https://www.slideshare.net/fergie4/sermon-slide-deck-the-celebration-of-heaven-luke-15110>. Slide 23. 7/6/17.

- a. My father surrendered to Jesus because of the wrath of God.
 - b. But this verse says God's kindness to us also breaks our hearts & leads to Jesus.
 - c. A boy was bringing home loaf of bread. Man said, *Where'd you get that? From the baker. What did the baker make it out of? Flour. Where'd he get the flour? From the mill. Where'd they get it? From the farmer. Where did the farmer get it? Then it dawned on the boy. The farmer got it from God. Well then, said the man, where did you get that bread? Oh, said the boy, [I got it] from God.*⁷
 - d. Little story reveals profound truth. Everything have from God. Been very good.
2. Add to this all spiritual benefits God provided. Our vine in richer soil than even Israel.
 - a. Israel = OT; We = OT+NT; Is = hope of Christ; we = have Christ; Is = 4000 yrs OT hist;
 - b. We = 4000 + 2000yrs Christian history; Is = partial ministry H.S., we = full ministry H.S.
 3. God vry good. Done everything could make us all should be – if turn lives over to Christ.

II. **God's Patience, vv. 2-8.**

A. Patience with Israel

1. Application of this parable went 2 ways. Very thing was happening in Palestine. (Show)⁸
 - a. Vineyards (like this) owned by wealthy landowners who rented to tenant farmers.
 - b. At harvest time owners sent servants to collect the harvest = 1/4 - 1/2 of the produce.
 - c. Tenant farmers resented landowners & violent disputes were occurring very time.⁹
2. Primary application was to the history of Israel. God's prophets were called servants.¹⁰
 - a. Time & again w/loving patience God sent prophets to Israel to gather fruit.
 - b. He was looking for the fruits of repentance, faith & righteousness, see Matt. 3:8.
 - c. But those prophets were abused, wounded and often killed.
 - d. Elijah driven into wilderness; Isaiah sawn in two; John Baptist beheaded.
 - e. Just as owner had one more messenger, a son, so God had one more, His Son.
 - f. When son came the tenant farmers assumed owner was dead.
 - i. In Jewish Mishnah, law said if no owner land went to 1st claimant after certain time.
 - ii. By killing the son attempting to acquire vineyard for themselves.
3. Parable = prophecy of exactly what happened to Jesus. Leaders = vineyard for selves.
 - a. Wanted power and wealth that being associated w/the Sanhedrin afforded them.
 - b. Very moment plotting kill Jesus. Few days hand to Romans crucify outside Jerusalem.
 - c. Jesus was literally killed & thrown out of the vineyard of Israel.
 - d. All of this done in the face of God's patient love in sending them messengers.

B. Has God Been Patient with Us?

1. I once calculated all the messengers that God sent to me in my youth. Have you thot?
 - a. 8 S.S. teachers, 6 youth leaders,¹¹ 1/2 doz. boys club leaders, VBS, Camp, GNC leaders,
 - b. 7 pastors, scores of friends and many relatives. God sent messenger after messen.
2. You are like me. Pastors preached to you; friends/family prayed for/witnessed to you;

⁷ Walter B. Knight (1956). "God the Giver," *Knight's Master Book of 4000 Illustrations*, p. 540. Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.

⁸ Vineyard. <http://www.patrickcomerford.com/2014/09/matthew-21-33-46-wicked-tenants-and.html>. 7/6/17.

⁹ Recorded in papyrus records of the day. William L. Lane, *The Gospel According to Mark* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1975), pp. 417, 418.

¹⁰ Jeremiah 7:25; Amos 3:7 = *his servants the prophets*.

¹¹ I was not always easy on all of my teachers/youth leaders. Regrettably I was difficult for some of them.

- a. Churches driven past; radio programs heard; TV broadcasts available; Bibles given.
- b. You like me. God has patiently sent us messenger after messenger.
- c. Have listened? Or have we disregarded great patience of God. What's next?

III. **God's Justice, v. 9.**

A. Surprise

1. What surprise this was? Tenants that owner dead, & now He shows up.
 - a. In Jesus' day some owners hired enforcers to deal w/belligerent farmers.
 - b. Read about atheist who scribbled God is nowhere on a wall. (Show)¹²
 - c. Someone separated the last word and wrote instead God is now here.
 - d. Just about time think God is nowhere, He's now here. Only then may be too late.
2. No one knows when God's patience w/us runs out & deals w/us in justice.
3. Historically, God set aside Israel and turned to the Gentiles. Judgment came 70AD.

B. Hell

1. Jesus was not referring to just earthly punishment. Destroy = eternal misery in hell.¹³
2. Some think Hell is incompatible with the love of God. Loving God not send to Hell.
 - a. C.S. Lewis said God doesn't send us to Hell; we send ourselves.
 - b. God reaches out to us in goodness/patience. If we reject, then choose justice.
 - c. God gives to us the consequences of our own choice.
 - d. The doctrine of hell is based on the premise that the punishment must fit the crime. [People] refuse to give themselves to God – God refuses to give Himself to them eternally. They spurn fellowship with God – they are given separation from God. They cast Christ out of their lives – they are cast out of His life. They reject – they are rejected.¹⁴
3. It's God's vineyard. If we not want Him in it, it is only just that He makes us leave.
4. Do you know how Jesus' parable ends. Not with Hell, but with invitation. How loving!

IV. **God's Invitation, vv. 10-12.**

A. Psalm 118:22-23 (Show)¹⁵

1. Originally referred to stone in Solomon's temple 1st rejected, but later used as greatest.
 - a. Came to be understood as a Messianic promise.
 - b. Jesus = stone rejected by builders. Thru resurrection, God succeeded in the end.
 - c. He made Jesus most important stone in plan of salvation. Jesus'll be triumphant.

B. We Are Invited to Share His Triumph

1. Daniel 2:44-45: one day the stone will fall from heaven. Crush kingdoms of this world.
 - a. The stone will grow into a huge mountain that will cover the whole earth.
 - b. Jesus is that stone and His kingdom will be that mountain.
2. This is an invitation. Come share His mountain. Come share His kingdom.

¹² God is nowhere vs. now here. <https://mondaymorningreview.wordpress.com/tag/interpretation/>. 7/8/17.

¹³ Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship. #622

¹⁴ Prof. Roy B. Zuck (1997). "Hell," *The Speaker's Quote Book*, p. 191. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications.

¹⁵ <http://slideplayer.com/slide/7253324/24/images/45/Psalm+118:22-23+in+Matthew+21,+Mark+12+and+Luke+20.jpg>.