



Trinity News

March 21, 2010

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Lent V - The Parable of the Tenants Luke 20:9-19 – A Costly Vocation

Luke tells the story here mostly from Mark 12:1-11. “But he has told it so as to bring out certain emphasis and to share continuities from the past.” The chief priests and scribes and elders replace the Pharisees in this particular scene. They are mentioned as Jesus’ potential killers at 9:22 in the first prophecy of his death in this Gospel: “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” The vineyard was a familiar Scriptural image for Israel (Psalm 80:8-9; Isaiah 5:6; 27:2-5; Jeremiah 2:21). Mark refers more in detail to the planting and thus more directly to Isaiah 5:1-6. In contrast to Isaiah 5:5-6 there is no reference to the destruction of the vineyard. The letting-out of a productive field to tenants by an absentee landlord must have been a custom in Israel.

“The meaning of the Parable determines the course of events within it.” Mark 12:5 refers to ‘many others’ some of whom are killed, referring surely to the prophets who were sent by God to Israel. But Luke concentrates on the outcomes of the owner’s dealings with his servants. Three servants are sent to get the owner’s share of the fruit. All of them are beaten or wounded. Then the owner is at his wits’ end: “What shall I do? I will send my Son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him” (20:13). This seems crazy to us, but for Luke it apparently is meant to convey the incredible lengths that the Lord would go to in order to achieve his purposes. “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over, ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they threw him out to the vineyard and killed him” (20:15). We have no information as to how they could have inherited the estate in such a case. Being “thrown out” is a sign of the utter rejection of the “only son”.

Interpretation: This parable resonates with the prophetic and fulfilled elements of the story of Jesus. The parable is about intentions from the dark side of the human psyche where violence never really slumbers and where the “shadow” (Jung) can erupt into hostility and violence if unchecked. So much of what Christ teaches is close the bone of human pretensions. He is relentless in exposing the false self and its dangerous collective expressions. That is, when a group with false intentions gathers and their acts disclose the dark underside of their collective consciousness, then destructive forces may be unleashed. This parable is about the recognition of what is revealed as true by genuine words/deeds, authenticity, self-evident love and compassion. This is particularly true about spiritual claims that supposedly are the basis of individual and communal conduct.

Salvation has a history. We bring the past with us but the present and the future define our destiny. We look back over past rejections and note the little deaths and the exhilarating moments when we felt raised up. That which we have transfigured we have re-created, and what we have re-created we have also offered as a gift to the future. Last Sunday I gathered the children around me to give a visual picture of the care of the Father for all of his children. What a wrench of the heart of the Father to send the ONLY SON to care for all of God’s children! We too must protect them!

Bishop Arthur Jones

Next week's readings:

Isaiah 52:13-15; Psalm 22; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 23:1-49

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Beryl Tanner, JPeter, Bonnie SyCip, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Rom Vildzius, Emerinciana Gatela, Loy Solasco, Ron & Vera Thoburn, Aris Paraman, Johnny Manning Jr, Benjie Conzales, Ema Duhaylongsod, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Ron Jacob, Richard Kendall, Diana Croyston, Merly Quiapos, Suzanne Jacobson, Susan Dalmas, Helen Irvine, Carrie Angus, Nikolai Gordevich, Amy Gonzales, Janet Johnstone, Fidelia Matthews, Gloria Domingo, Reuben Longid.

THIS WEEK:

March 23, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am, Parish Hall.

Mar 25, Thursday.

- Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel.
- Bible Study, 7:00pm, Rectory.

March 28, Palm Sunday.

- Regular Sunday worship, 7:30 & 9:30am
- Sunday School, 9:15am

	Pledges	Loose Plate
Last Sunday	P28,850.00	P16,161.10
Year-to-date	P783,466.66	P190,581.10
2010 Budget	P3,900,000.00	P940,000.00

This email was sent to update parishioners and interested individuals in the events and activities of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Makati. If you do not want to receive any emails from CHT, kindly inform us via email. Thank you.