

## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – year A

1<sup>st</sup> reading : from the Prophet Isiah (5:1-7)

Psalm

2<sup>nd</sup> reading : from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (4:6-9))

Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (21:33-43)

I have heard somewhere that Jesus used to tell parables that were already well-known to the people of his time but that he would alter them halfway along the narration so that the end would be different from what was expected. Thus people felt surprise and started not only to listen attentively but also to think about what they heard and to wonder about the meaning of it all.

Here we have an example of how Jesus proceeded. Both parables start in the same way: a man plants a vineyard with a tower in the center and a winepress. He does everything possible for his vineyard. Then things diverge.

In the reading from Isaiah, the vineyard represented the House of Israel, the men of Judah were the plant. In the Gospel, the vineyard was the kingdom of God.

In the first reading, the Lord of Hosts took himself care of Israel as the man took himself care of his vine. In the Gospel, the landowner went away and entrusted his vineyard to tenants, in the same way as God entrusted the chief priests and the elders with his Kingdom.

But the vineyard gave sour grapes, bloodshed and distress. And the tenants decided to keep the fruit of their work for themselves thus becoming thieves and even murderers, just like the chief priests and the elders who rejected Christ and ultimately demanded his death while making God's law a burden for the people.

What can we understand ?

Maybe that when God looked after his people, his people didn't answer with the pure heart -integrity- and good deeds -justice- that he expected from them. He then put some men in charge of his kingdom to grow and they kept it for themselves.

Isn't it enough to despair of humanity ?

No, God doesn't despair, so we shouldn't either. Because he will give the kingdom of God to a people who will produce fruit. And behold : we are the people he's giving the Kingdom of God to !

But what are we doing with it ?

And what is the Kingdom of God ?