

REAPING WHAT WE SOW

October 4, 2020

Proper 22A

First Reading ~ *Matthew 21:36-44*

“A second time the owner sent even more aides than before, but they treated them the same way. Finally the owner sent the family heir, thinking ‘They will respect my heir’. When the vine growers saw the heir, they said to one another, ‘Here’s to one who stands in the way of our having everything. With a single act of murder we could seize the inheritance.’ With that, they grabbed and killed the heir outside the vineyard. What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those tenants? They replied, “The owner will bring that wicked crowd to a horrible death and lease the vineyard out to others who will see to it that there are grapes for the proprietor at vintage time.” Jesus said to the, “Did you ever read in the scriptures,

‘The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone;
it was our God’s doing
and we find it marvelous to behold.’?

“That’s why I tell you that the Dominion of God will be taken from you and given to people who will bear its fruit. Those who fall on this stone will be dashed to pieces, and those on whom it falls will be smashed.”

Second Reading ~ *Psalm 80:7-15*

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;
it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.
Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand planted.

Third Reading ~ *from Howard Thurman in “Jesus and the Disinherited”*

“There is one overmastering problem that the socially and politically disinherited always face: Under what terms is survival possible?”