

## Day 1

July 23



*Pray | For understanding of God's word, the Bible.*

BEING A PART of God's kingdom comes with great privilege and great responsibility.

Jesus often used the parables to show God's grace in providing warning to sinners and promised judgement against those who reject him.

Jesus calls on his followers to bear fruit by spreading his gospel message, speaking to the destructive nature of sin, and sharing God's eternal promise of grace.



*Read | Matthew 21:33-39*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

The actions of the tenants in today's scripture verses could be seen as a reflection on our society today. What are some of the ways in which the Word of God is rejected? If you are a follower of Christ, reflect on ways in which you can lovingly nudge others to see God as both a just judge and as having saving grace.

Think of some of the circumstances of your life in which you feel you bear the fruits of Jesus Christ the most. Reflect on how you can put yourself into those circumstances more often. Think in terms of your spiritual gifts.

How might the actions of the tenants in today's verses be a reflection on the way in which many of God's servants were treated by the Israelites throughout the Bible story? For example, Jesus was crucified, many of the Old Testament prophets were ridiculed and persecuted. Have you treated any of God's messengers in a similar way?

## Day 2

July 24



*Pray | For God's grace through patterns of repeated sin.*

THE CYCLE of sin is treacherous. Rescue from sin is impossible apart from Jesus Christ.

Thankfully, God's grace offers redemption from sin. It is common even for Christians to struggle with the same sin for long periods of time. God's grace is eternally perfect and persistent. Today's verses are an illustration of what repeated sin can cause in the human heart.



*Read | Matthew 21:35-36*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Today's two verses indicate the tenants treated the landowner's servants the same way on two occasions. It was most likely much easier for the tenants to commit their murderous acts the second time around. What does this tell you about how sin can transform us?

What are some sinful patterns that you might be struggling with? Spend time in prayer today and ask God to transform your heart and turn to his Word.

Have you ever felt like one of the second group of servants? Maybe you have tried to share God's love with someone and been rejected or subject to ridicule. Did you step out in faith again or give in to your fears and stay where it was safe? What was the result?

## Day 3

July 25



**Pray** | For Jesus Christ to defeat the root causes of sin.

THE SIN BEHIND the sin. Often times, when we sin on the surface, it is caused by a deeper issue...usually pride and greed.

Pride and greed often go hand in hand. Greed is often associated with obsession over money or possessions. However, when it is associated with pride, greed can manifest itself in some of the following ways; an insistence on “doing it your own way,” refusing to relent power, or the failure to recognize your own flaws and sinful ways.



**Read** | Matthew 21:37-39



**Reflect** | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Today’s verses are very similar to the verses from Day 1 and Day 2 of this week. The tenants repeated their sin for a third consecutive time. Today’s verses explicitly indicate their intentions were driven by greed and pride. Where do greed and pride manifest themselves the most in your life? Spend time in prayer and ask God how to make changes in your life to turn away from greed and pride.

Every parable Jesus told had its own unique purpose. The parable of the tenants is a reflection on the Pharisees during the time of Jesus’ crucifixion (Matthew 21:45). The Pharisees wished to maintain their own ways for their own selfish purposes, just like the tenants in this story. Are there any aspects of your way of living that seem difficult to let go and relinquish control to Jesus Christ? Share yourself in prayer with God this week and ask how you can live for him.

If you are not yet a follower Jesus Christ, know that anything is possible with Christ. Pray and tell God that you are willing to shed your old ways and give yourself to him. He will accept you joyfully!

*Day 4*  
July 26



*Pray | Thank God for his patience.*

GOD IS like a parent to all of humanity. He loves us so much and he is so graceful, he provides us with warning after warning about ultimate consequence of sin. He loves us, even though we sin.

In this parable, some might consider the land owner to be weak or naïve. If you think of the landowner as a representation of God, weak and naïve are far from the truth. God is all powerful and all knowing. The history of the Bible stretches all the way back to the beginning of time. From Adam all the way through the New Testament, God sent hundreds of warnings, dozens of prophets, judgements, and redemptions to his people. This parable does indicate, however, that God's patience will one day be exhausted and he will put a final end to those that unrepentantly reject his son.



*Read | [Matthew 21:40-41](#)*



*Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Where do you see yourself in this parable? Know that it is not yet too late to seek a relationship with Jesus Christ. There is still time to seek your place as a permanent worker on the landowner's farm, producing and sharing the glorious harvest fruit.

You do not have to be an expert Christian theologian to share God's glory with others. Many Christians may feel unequipped to do so for a variety of reasons. If you are simply willing to be vulnerable to others, and willing to share the transformation your relationship with Jesus has had on your heart, you will be fruitful to others in their faith journey.

Many of God's warnings of judgement to his people throughout the Old Testament and New Testament may seem harsh or frightening. If you think this way, pray to God today to shift your paradigm of thinking about the nature of his warnings. How can God's warnings of judgement be taken as messages of love and grace?

## Day 5

July 27



*Pray | Tell God you love him and tell him why*

THE IMPORTANCE of understanding the Old Testament in order to understand the New Testament cannot be overstated.

Jesus often used the Old Testament in his parables and teachings. The Old Testament is full of love, grace, judgement, and warnings of end times. The same can be said for the Jesus' ministry. His ministry is a confirmation of all of the Old Testament. Jesus is what stands between eternal salvation or eternal condemnation.



*Read | Matthew 21:40-46, 1 Corinthians 1:18, Isaiah 5:1-7*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Why do think some Christians tend to diminish or avoid the importance of the Old Testament? A great way to remind yourself and to remind others of the importance of the Old Testament is to remember that it points to Jesus Christ.

God himself has provided us with the Bible. The best way to know the Bible and understand its messages is to spend time reading and discussing it. If you struggle to find time, be intentional about finding a Bible study course or spend extra time with your small group reflecting on scripture.

If you know someone who is far from God, take the opportunity at the next service to visit the candle station. Light a candle for that person and pray that they grow to understand God's Word, to heed his warnings, for their heart to be transformed, and that they grow to bear the fruits of God's glory.

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