



Privileges Demand Responsibility

“When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?” (Matthew 21:40).

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Divine privileges should be treasured for their eternal values and guarded with our lives. Every believer has a choice (a) in either serving or not serving God, and (b) on the quality of that service. Jesus illustrated through this parable the danger of wrong choices in this area.

“Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: 34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. 38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. 40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. 42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. 45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet” (Matthew 21:33-46; See also Mark 12:1-12 and Luke 20:9-18).

“The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner” (Matthew 21:42)

- 1) The farm owner invested time, resources and effort to plant and secure the farm before appointing 'husbandmen' to tend it.
- 2) These 'husbandmen' were selfish and self centred and had no regard to ownership and the investment of the farm owner.
- 3) Parallel accounts revealed that the servants that were not killed were sent away empty and shamefully handled or cast away wounded (Mark 12:3-4; Luke 20:10-12).
- 4) They had no reverence for the son / heir. They cast him out and killed him with the intention of inheriting the farm.
- 5) The farm owner took action to get rid of the unfaithful 'husbandmen' and let out the farm to better ones who will render him fruit in season.
- 6) “The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matthew 21:43). The focus of God is on fruitfulness. To retain the privileges of the kingdom, we must bear fruits.
- 7) “The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner” (Matthew 21:42). God shall reign for ever more! It is a waste of time to reject God, ignore His words or scorn His plan.
- 8) When the chief priests and Pharisees perceived that this parable exposed their hypocrisy, instead of repenting, they simply shrugged their shoulder saying “God forbid” with respect to the consequences rather than their unfaithfulness (Luke 20:16). Sinners often think that they are smart enough to outwit God and can get away with their sins; but God is so mighty, wise and powerful to ensure that the consequences of sin always catches up with the sinners.