

Paying the Rent

Parables , What do We Know?

- 1.* They used everyday objects, events and images to communicate important truth.
- 2.* They were designed to test, not the intelligence but the spiritual responsiveness of the hearer.
- 3.* Great insight about God and his Kingdom can be ours by listening carefully to these parables

Paying the Rent

The Kingdom of heaven is like... (what we have studied so far this summer)

- The Sower – 4 kinds of soil
- The Weeds – God decides
- The Prodigal Son – which son are you?
- The Workers & the Vineyard – God's justice looks different than ours
- The Unmerciful Servant – we owe but our debt has been cancelled. We are expected to do the same.
- The Talents – faithfulness with what God has given is expected

Paying the Rent

Events leading up to parable of the Tenants in Matthew 21:33-44

- Jesus has recently entered Jerusalem and received a king's welcome – it was the height of his popularity
- Jesus cleared the temple of the crooked money-changers
- Curses a fig tree for not bearing fruit – it immediately withers
- Just before giving the parable of the tenants Jesus was teaching in the temple courts. He was interrupted by the chief priest and elders
- The religious leaders challenged Jesus with the question of “by what authority are you doing these things?”

Paying the Rent

Events leading up to parable of the Tenants in Matthew 21:33-44

- Jesus responds with his own question and then proceeds to answer the religious leaders with 3 parables
- The first parable is the parable of 2 sons that a father asks to work in his vineyard
- The second is the parable of the tenants
- The third is the parable of the wedding banquet

Paying the Rent

Key Elements of the Parable of the Tenants – Matthew 21:33-44

1. There is a large investment that is well prepared
 - It is well protected by a wall
 - It has a watch tower to see approaching danger
 - It is ready for wine making
 - The grapes have already been planted
 - What a great deal!

Paying the Rent

Key Elements of the Parable of the Tenants – Matthew 21:33-44

2. A contract is made

- farmers move in and start farming the vineyard

3. Servants sent to settle contract

- it's harvest time and the land owner expects the contract to be honored
- sends servants to collect rent – servants are abused and/or killed and rent remains unpaid
- more servants sent – same result
- son is sent as an authority to settle the debt

Paying the Rent

Key Elements of the Parable of the Tenants – Matthew 21:33-44

4. Tenants assume ownership of the vineyard

- seize opportunity to steal the vineyard by killing the land owner's son who is the heir to the property

5. Land owner returns to deal with nasty tenants

- tenants come to a “wretched” end (debt will be paid)
- new trustworthy tenants will be found

Paying the Rent

Original message of Parable of the Tenants – Matthew 21:33-44

Angry audience – you are the wicked tenants!

- the religious leaders would have been outraged by the fact that they knew that Jesus considered them to be the wicked tenants
- God had given Israel an incredible gift – they were his people!
- the expectation was that they would live according to God's desire for them and as a result, be a light to the nations
- Israel ultimately failed in her mission; in fact, they ended up killing and abusing almost all of the prophets that God sent to help Israel come back to God

Paying the Rent

Original message of Parable of the Tenants – Matthew 21:33-44

- imagery of parable taken from Isaiah 5 (well known to leaders)
- Jesus answered the question of authority in the parable as he was the son who was sent
- Jesus foreshadowed his impending death at the hands of the religious leaders
- who would be the new tenants? The followers of Jesus – including the gentiles.

Paying the Rent

What can we learn for today from the parable of the tenants?

1. Undermining the “mine” mentality

- everything belongs to God

Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...”

- what we have does not belong to us

- is our default setting “mine”?

- when we forget that our lives – who we are and everything we have – belongs to God, we lose sight of what God wants and start seeking after what we want

Paying the Rent

What can we learn for today from the parable of the tenants?

2. Becoming a steward

- we are expected to be good stewards of what God has given
- a good steward treats his master's property well, but never forgets that what has been given is actually not his
- good tenants are hard to come by
- tenants go from abusing servants to killing them to killing the heir – once sin takes root in our hearts, there's no telling how far it will take us
- religious leaders claimed ownership of authority

Paying the Rent

What can we learn for today from the parable of the tenants?

3. Paying the rent – what does a good renter look like?

- God is looking for men and women who are willing to live according to his mission and his purposes – not our own
- listening to God's correction in our lives
- the result of not paying the rent is rebellion against God's kingdom and ultimately, his Son – this is serious business
- paying the rent simply means we are living as kingdom subjects

Paying the Rent

What can we learn for today from the parable of the tenants?

1. Undermining the “mine” mentality – a question of ownership
2. Becoming a steward – we are expected to be good stewards of what God has given
3. Paying the rent – living as subjects in God’s kingdom means seeking his kingdom and will first, not ours