

9 Ordinary Time Monday 2020  
MK 12:1-12

In this morning's gospel parable, Our Blessed Lord uses the image of wicked tenants of a vineyard whose owner had gone on a journey. The history of God's constant struggle for and with Israel was depicted in a series of servants who came at the owner's order to collect the grapes. The history of the prophets, their suffering and death appear throughout the parable, where the servants were manhandled and killed. Eventually, the land owner sent his son, whom the tenants also seized and killed.

Jesus' listeners realized the parable was about them and Him in the parable of the tenants of a vineyard. Jesus said in so many words, "I'm talking to you about Me!"

One beautiful and mystical thing about the scriptures is they are eternal. This scripture story is not just about Jesus and His hearers sometime between 30 and 33 AD. And It is not just about Mark's readers in 65 AD.

Yet, if we open our eyes, isn't what was said in the parable actually a description of our present world with the actions of our Communist brothers and sisters who do not

believe there is a God. This way, they do not belong to God, and they can do as they please. Get rid of, or have no God, and there is no measuring rod above us; we are our own measure and the “vineyard” belongs to us. The same mentality belongs to the rioters. Rioters believe they can do as they please because the vineyard belongs to us.

Since the pandemic began, I’ve been reading another book whose author’s writings are timeless, namely Bishop Fulton Sheen. The book is entitled Communism and the Conscience of the West. I’m only a third of the way through the book and I must admit some of it is over my head. But what I do understand makes sense, if you will about how Communists think. Sheen writes about the moral compass of Communism. Sheen says there is absolutely no limit to the chicanery, duplicity and deviltry of Communism. Quoting Lenin, “It is necessary . . . to use any ruse, cunning, unlawful method, evasion, concealment of the truth.” Stalin added approvingly: “Dictatorship means nothing more nor less than the power which directly rests on violence, which is not limited by any laws

or restricted by any absolute rules.” Keep in mind these men were Communist leaders. They are not critiquing Communism. They are defining Communism.

For those of us whose see moral order as under God, Jesus says no. The vineyard, the vine is not Israel, it is not Communism, it is not the dictator. I am the true vine. And the words “I AM,” that is God, and “true” are the important things to notice about this saying, in that I am the vine and the vineyard belongs to Him!

No wonder there is a pandemic, and no wonder there was a coverup when you are dealing with those who have no moral compass. And how do you reason with such a mindset? I don't know that you do. I don't know that you don't. I don't know. I don't know, but God knows. How many times do we use that phrase so flippantly, “God knows!” Let us pray for our free world leaders as they grapple with this dilemma, bigger than them, bigger than you, bigger than me, but certainly not bigger than Our Blessed Lord, who is the true vine, as the vineyard belongs to Him, whether the Communists or the rioters believe it or not.