

[We live in a violent society!](#) That is more than evident as we have witnessed the violence and the social discord in these last few days, what has become known as “Black lives matter.” And again we see that violence begets violence in so many of our cities across the nation. The parable taken from Matthew’s gospel is a good example of this...violence tends to beget more violence. The tenants think that by being violent toward and killing the servants who come to gather the landowner’s rightful share of the produce, they will have more for themselves. This begets more greed and violence, they think that if they kill the son, they will inherit the vineyard and have it all the produce and the land. In the end, they meet with violent end and have nothing—not even their own lives.

The [chief priests and the elders](#) align themselves with the tenants in the parable—these leaders are unfaithful and ultimately they too kill the One, God sends into the vineyard to collect his harvest—the Kingdom that Jesus has come to establish. And [they seal their own fate, when they again pronounce judgment on themselves...](#)”They answered, [He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper time.](#)”

Like the tenants, in the end [they lose what they are trying to protect. They will lose in inheritance of God’s kingdom that has been promised to them.](#) This is the death that the chief priests and the elders seal for themselves. They will be cut off from the kingdom of God. And they are no longer connected to the vineyard...Or THE VINE...”I am the vine and you are the branches...for without me you can do nothing.”

On the other hand [those who are faithful and accept the Son, and bear fruit in due season receives the “Life” only the kingdom can give. The very LIFE Of GOD.](#)

While all the produce belongs by rights to the owner (God), and we have no rights to it of our own accord, those who are faithful, God’s life, his mercy and love are given freely and generously.

Remembering that the vineyard is given to other tenants who will produce the fruit at the proper time, and it is a clear indication to the community that was—
The new found Church!!!

[Matthew's Church—A Jewish Community of Christians, who find themselves the a Commission. That they are the new tenants who would be trusted and employed to bring in the harvest of the Kingdom.](#) Remember that Matthew's community was established after the destruction of Jerusalem and her temple. (And remember that Matthew's underlying theme, is that Jesus, and the Kingdom he has established, is the fulfillment of all that has been promised in the Old Testament or the Hebrew Scriptures.) The new found community would be a torch for the kingdom, they are be the ones who are trusted.

Of course [if they would not provide the harvest, they were well aware of what would happen to “those wretched men.”](#)

[We are part of the legacy of the Kingdom](#), like Matthew's community we are the tenants of the vineyard, who are called to act with integrity, reflecting the values of the kingdom, love, mercy, hope and forgiveness.

Again, we have the unique position of being chosen and commissioned to form a new community, where we at BFXS, will tend to the vineyard that will produce a harvest, a hundred, if not a thousand fold!

And so we celebrate, today our patron, and the vineyard that has been entrusted to us. With God's help, we will be faithful tenants and give back to the “owner” a bountiful harvest.

We are the faithful ones, the trusted ones, the holy ones. We know deeply, that just as violence begets more violence...so it is also true that love begets love, mercy begets mercy and hope begets hope.

Let us be resolved to provide a bountiful harvest from a vineyard that is tended and loved by God himself, through the harvest of love, mercy, hope and forgiveness. Blessed Francis Xavier watch over us and pray for us.