Jesus Unfiltered - **WK 9 – The Crime Scene Parable**

**3 yrs teaching the Kingdom - #1 way = Parables (comparisons) -**

**Jesus gave life to those around him, healed the sick, feed the poor, welcomed the outcast, performed miracles, yet for some who saw him with their own eyes – he was still rejected…**

**This is the last week – however this is not all of Jesus Parables.**

**Some list 23, 27, 31, 33, even 46. All confrontational particularly todays.**

**Today’s is found in 3 of the 4 gospels, this one is directed at everyone - particularly those who reject God.**

**Luke 20:1-19 - Jesus Answers a Question and Picks a Fight**

**The last week of Jesus life – the cross is quickly approaching. He just rode into town (claiming his messiahship) walks into the temple and over thru the tables and starts teaching…**

**Luke 20:1 As Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up (religious power brokers) 2 and said to him, “Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority.” (Riding in as the Messiah – overturning tables – Lit. - Who do you think you are?) 3 He answered them, “I also will ask you a question. (He often responds to accusations with questions – try it) Now tell me, 4 was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?” 5 And they discussed it with one another, (They huddle awe crud – how do we answer this?) saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’ 6 But if we say, ‘From man,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.” 7 So they answered that they did not know where it came from. (If John was from God, Jesus is the Messiah and has all authority - Uh…we don’t know) 8 And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.” (if you can’t recognize the authority f God when you see it – arguing will not convince you.**

**Right off the top… Knowing God starts here – who is Jesus?**

**It all goes back to who Jesus is. What is the nature of his authority?**

**This is the message of the NT – clarified and taught by Jesus and His Disciples. Jesus is the full authority and power of God! God in flesh!**

**Either you get it or you don’t. Answers to life most difficult questions begin with dealing with who Jesus is. His authority was and still is… rejected.**

**He asked his disciples (Matt 16) – “who do you say I am?” The question is asked to you today?**

**(With that in mind he told this story) 9 And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out (rented it – rent was paid thru the harvest) to tenants and went into another country for a long while. 10 When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed.**

**Jesus telling a story about a vineyard immediately sparked something. This is about Israel. Thru out the OT word pictures for Israel are used. Let me tell you a story… about Israel.**

**11 And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. (in the other gospels – the master sends large numbers) 13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ (Who do you think he talking about?)**

**The Cast of Characters:**

**Owner of the vineyard ….. God the Father**

**The vineyard ……………... Israel / the world**

**The tenant farmers ……… The people given the Word of God**

**Servants of the owner ..… The prophets rejected by the people**

**Son/Heir of the owner ….. Jesus Christ**

**14 But when the tenants saw him, (the son) they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ 15 And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? (Think about it - what do you think the owner will do? Jesus responds) 16 He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” (May this never be!!! - Why the shock – they knew he was talking about the promise of Israel given to another)**

**17 But he looked directly at them (stops and stares at them) and said, “What then is this that is written: (Ps 118:22 - prophecy about the Messiah) “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? 18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”** **(whaaaa??? What does that mean)**

**Capstone / cornerstone / foundation stone – designed to bear the stress and weight of the structure. God is going to build a great thing. The people responsible to build it will be sent a stone – but they look at it and go, “don’t like it” and throw it aside. God will then use the stone you rejected, to build something greater. Jesus was referring to himself – and building the kingdom of God w/ us.**

**(Paul speaking to gentiles - Us) Ephesians 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. (Those in Jesus are a holy temple) 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

**They were shocked at this story. Beyond this amazing declaration for them are some powerful characteristics of God for us.**

**5 Lessons from the Vineyard: What Jesus was saying to them and us!**

1. **God’s expectations for his people to bear fruit**

**(Matt’s version) Matthew 21:33 “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.**

**The master went to great lengths and detail to prepare & build this vineyard. He then rents it out - expecting a harvest. They’re obligated to produce fruit by the nature of their position w/ the master.**

**Christ follower, God placed you in a position as his servant to bear fruit. God expects it. This is all on loan from God.**

**John 15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. / 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide…**

**A few of the other parables we looked at discussed this. If you are a follower of Jesus. Your life is to reflects it. (Explain fruit)**

**Colossians 1:10 Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.**

**We are to grow in knowledge (bible study, understanding, theology,) and bear fruit (compassionate actions of help and hope to the world)**

1. **God’s great patience, seen in His repeated, gracious messengers**

**At this point, the parable is not at all like real life. He sends 1, 2, 3 – and more. Repeated opportunities to change, even after violent rejection.**

**In the parable – the rejected servants beaten and killed were the prophets sent to Israel to get them back on track. Most all of them were abused, attacked, and killed – But God kept sending.**

**Romans 5:20 …as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more and more abundant. (God kept sending gracious warnings)**

**Jesus is reminding them / us of the unreasonable, illogical, extravagant, super-human patience of our gracious God.**

**James 2:** **13 ... Mercy triumphs over judgment. / Psalm 103:8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

**God’s ridiculous, unreasonable, illogical, incredible – patience**

**Even in regards to his return, he is patient - 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, (of his return) as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

**God is not an old-school teacher ready to whack you with a ruler. He loves you – cares for you. He is giving you every opportunity to respond to him. Even after you reject him – he will send another…**

**Many of you today know God’s patience- he never gave up on you!**

**But don’t confuse his patience for weakness – as we see at the end of this parable… There will be a time when his patience becomes justice. Jesus is saying - one day the owner of the vineyard will return.**

1. **God’s great love, seen in the sending of His beloved Son**

**The owners Son is Jesus himself. Sent to collect what is rightfully his Father’s – yet he is rejected and killed (it came to pass 5 days later)**

**The Father willingly sent his son – God in the flesh. Willingly gave - knowing he would be rejected – abused - and murdered.**

**Knowing He would rise again. To Build a great kingdom!**

**Those wicked servants assumed that if they killed the son – they would inherit the masters fortune and the vineyard would be there’s! Killing the Son – not because of mistaken identity, but because they wanted it.**

**The real issue is this, “Who owns the vineyard?” They did not want to submit themselves to God’s rightful ownership of their life. Made by the master – but they wanted to rule the vineyard.**

**Today many try to kill Jesus – put God to death – reject his authority – because they seek to inherit this life – this world – it pleasures and fortunes – success! They want to rule their own life.**

**Are you rejecting Jesus – because you want to rule the vineyard. You want to rule your own life?**

**Do not be deceived - Mark 8:36 What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?**

**The most shocking part of the story for the listeners – God gave it to another. The rejection of God’s invitation is eventually withdrawn and given to another. (Think about that)**

1. **God’s righteous judgment on those who reject His Son**

**2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 2:1-5, 1 Peter 4:17, John 3:18, Hebrews 9:23-28, Romans 14:12, 1 John 2:1-29, Revelation 20:11-15, Romans 5:1-21, John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, Revelation 20:1-15, John 5:24, Matthew 10:15**

**A day will come when his patience with this world will end. The master will come and we will all give an account. There will be no more opportunities… only judgement. It will be righteous and just**

**It will be terrific and terrible. Terrific for the faithful servants – terrible for the those who rejected the son.**

**The entire chapter of Romans 11 talks about this – Romans 11:22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.**

1. **God’s certain, final triumph in Christ**

**Their attempts to stop the master from is return – were a big fail.**

**You cannot stop the plan of God – He will get what is rightfully His.**

**Isaiah 14:27 For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back? / Job 42:2 "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.”**

**Main point of most of Jesus parables: This life is temporary – it is a gift given to us for a season. Given to care for, enjoy, and to expand the kingdom of God. And one day – the master will return for it. Will you be ready?**

**Notice this powerful verse in the parable - 17 But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? 18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”**

**Would you rather be broken or would you rather be crushed?**

**If you fall on Jesus – he will break you and remake you…**

**But if you don’t – Jesus will fall on you at his return to crush you**

**Jesus told this parable for 2 main reasons.**

**1 - To encourage His followers who would get beat up and thrown out of places to keep on being faithful. Remember who owns the vineyard – keep giving the good news. His triumph is certain.**

**2 - To warn those who wrongly think that they own the vineyard. That a day of reckoning is coming!**

**Will you today respond like those hard-hearted Pharisees…Look how the parable ends - 19 The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, (they perceive right) but they feared the people.**

**Their problem: they heard the truth – understood it, but they feared people more than they feared God.**

**2 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR YOU TODAY (John 1:9-12, John 14:6)**

* **Is your God, really your Master? (for the “Christian”)**
* **Who owns your vineyard? (for everyone)**

**You have the cross on your neck, the ink on your arm, the sticker on your car, the seat in the church… but is he really your Master?**

**To those Pharisees he was God in name only… pay homage, gave tithes, memorized verses – but God was never their master. They claimed ownership to the vineyard (this life).**

**5 days after this parable the same people who questioned Jesus arrested, tortured, & killed Him. With-in a few months His disciples were tracked down attacked, beaten, jailed, and some murdered simply for being messengers for the master. And the rejection continues.**

**I am a reject. I reject the kingdom of this world for a greater kingdom. I reject the stones of this world for a greater cornerstone. I reject the pursuits of temporary pleasures for an eternal treasure. I reject self-seeking comfort and laziness for the joy and pleasure of kingdom work. I reject hate, malice, and forgiveness for grace, kindness, and patience. I reject closing my eyes to injustice for the work and labor of fighting for the hurting and forgotten.**

**As a result – I know I am, and will be, mocked, looked down on, made fun of, misunderstood, and misrepresented… I will be rejected in many ways by this world, but I am accepted by the one who owns this world. I am a reject – but accepted by my master. Jesus Christ.**

**1 Peter 2:4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”**