

James Rafferty-Q1-L11-2025-Christ's Parable of the Vineyard-March 12

Lesson 11: What Could I Have Done? (Wednesday)

March 8-14

Wednesday *March 12*

40 takeaways

Christ's Parable of the Vineyard

In the parable of the vineyard owner, in Matthew 21, Jesus picks up where Isaiah 5 left off, shedding additional light on the character and actions of the vineyard owner on behalf of His vineyard.

Read Matthew 21:33–39 with particularly the question of Isaiah 5:4 in mind. What more could He do than what He has done?

4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

33 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.

The first part of Christ's parable quotes directly from the song of Isaiah 5 about the vineyard owner and His vineyard. Then, Jesus adds, the vineyard owner " 'leased' " His vineyard " 'to vinedressers and went into a far country' " (*Matt. 21:33, NKJV*). Yet, when the vineyard owner twice sent His servants (the prophets) to collect the produce, those renting His vineyard beat and killed His servants (*Matt. 21:34–36*). Finally, He sent His Son (Jesus), saying " 'They will respect my son' " (*Matt. 21:37, NKJV*). But they murdered His Son, too, saying, " 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him " (*Matt. 21:38, 39, NKJV*).

What more could He do? The Father loved us so much that He gave His beloved Son (*John 3:16*). If the cosmic conflict is of the kind suggested here, it could not be settled prematurely by exercise of divine power but required first a public demonstration of God's character. This demonstration has been set forth ultimately in the work of Christ (*Rom. 3:25, 26; Rom. 5:8*). What more could we ask than that God (in Christ) give Himself to die for us, so that He might justify us without in any way compromising His justice and perfect love?

The cross event demonstrates that God has done everything that could be done to mitigate and eliminate evil, but without destroying the context for the flourishing of genuine love. If there had been any preferable avenue available to God, would He not have chosen it? While people suffer greatly in this cosmic conflict, God Himself suffers most of all. When we look at the Cross, we can, indeed, see what suffering and pain sin has brought to God Himself. Yet, so sacred was the freedom inherent in love that Christ was willing to endure this in our behalf.

Read Isaiah 53:4. Whose “griefs” and “sorrows” did Christ bear on the cross? What should this tell us about all that God has done for us and what salvation has cost Him?

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

IF WE STUDY CAREFULLY ISAIAH 53 WE WILL DISCOVER SOME 40 REFERENCES THAT DEPICT THE SUFFERING OF GOD IN CHRIST. THEN NOTE WHETHER THESE SUFFERING REFERENCES DESCRIBE PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL MENTAL TORMENT.

JESUS IS:

1. HE IS A ROOT OUT OF DRY GROUND
2. HE HAS NO FORM
3. HE HAS NO COMELINESS (“SPLENDER, MAGNIFICENCE”)
4. HE HAS NO BEAUTY THAT WE SHOULD DESIRE HIM
5. HE WAS DESPISED OF MEN
6. HE WAS REJECTED OF MEN (“VACANT, DESTITUTE”)
7. HE WAS A MAN OF SORROWS (“ANGUISH, AFFLICTION”)
8. HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF (MALADY, ANXIETY, CALAMITY”)
9. WE HID OUR FACES FROM HIM
10. HE WAS DESPISED (“DISESTEEM”)
11. HE WAS NOT ESTEEMED (“REGARD, VALUE”)
12. HE BORE OUR GRIEFS (MALADY, ANXIETY, CALAMITY”)
13. HE CARRIED OUR SORROWS (“ANGUISH, AFFLICTION”)

- 14.WE ESTEEMED HIM STRICKEN (“ANGUISH,
AFFLICTION”)
- 15.HE WAS SMITTEN OF GOD (“TO STRIKE”)
- 16.HE WAS AFFLICTED (“INDENT, DEPRESS”)
- 17.HE WAS WOUNDED-“TO BORE, TO DISSOLVE, TO
PROFANE”
- 18.HE WAS BRUISED-“CRUMBLE”
- 19.HE WAS CHASTISED-“REPROOF, WARNING”
- 20.HE RECEIVED OUR STRIPES-“A WEAK” BLACK AND
BLUE MARK
- 21.THE LORD LAID ON HIM THE INQUIRY OF US ALL-
“PERVERSITY, EVIL”
- 22.HE WAS OPPRESSED-“DRIVE, TAX, HARASS,
TYRANNIZE”
- 23.HE WAS AFFLICTED-“INDENT, DEPRESS” REPEAT #16
- 24.HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH IN SELF DEFENSE
- 25.HE WAS BROUGHT LIKE A LAMB TO THE
SLAUGHTER
- 26.HE WAS LIKE A SHEEP BEING SHEERED WHO
MAKES NO NOISE HE SAID NOTHING
- 27.HE WAS TAKEN FROM PRISON
- 28.HE WAS TAKEN FROM JUDGMENT
- 29.HE WAS CUT OFF OUT OF THE LAND OF THE LIVING
- 30.HE WAS STRICKEN “TO BLOW” FOR OUR
TRANSGRESSIONS
- 31.HE MADE HIS GRAVE WITH THE WICKED
- 32.IT PLEASED THE LORD TO BRUISE HIM-“CRUMBLE”
- 33.HE HAS PUT HIM TO GRIEF-“RUBBED OR WORN,
MADE SICK, AFFLICTED”
- 34.HE WAS MADE AN OFFERING FOR SIN

35.HIS SOUL WAS IN TRAVAIL-"TOIL, WEARING
EFFORT, WORKING BODY AND MIND"
36.HE SHALL BEAR THE INIQUITIES OF MANY
37.HE POURED OUT-"EMPTY, DEMOLISH" HIS SOUL
UNTO DEATH
38.HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS
39.HE BARE THE SIN OF MANY
40. HE MADE INTERCESSION FOR THE
TRANSGRESSORS - PRAYED FOR HIS CRUCIFERS
WHILE ON THE CROSS

Isaiah 53