

## Pentecost 18A

October 8, 2017

### Other Readings

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

### Readings for study

#### Philippians 3:4b-14

*Before: Beware those who mutilate the flesh*

- Confident in the flesh
  - o Proud of human accomplishments
- Circumcised
  - o The mark of determining one's place among God's people
- Tribe of Benjamin
  - o Another appeal to this (we heard the same in Romans)
- Law-Pharisee
  - o Paul's former occupation as teacher of the law
- Zeal-Persecutor
  - o We recall the encounter with Christ that questions why Paul persecutes the church
- Righteousness-Blameless
  - o Not in terms of Paul's righteousness with God, but in observance to Torah
- Gains/loss because of Christ
  - o In Greek "gain" and "loss" are both emphasized by word order
- Everything is loss (rubbish)
  - o Paul doubles down – maybe better said refuse or excrement (recall the lack of a sewage system)
- Be found in him
  - o Note that while Paul talks about his striving, many of the actions are actually God's
- Righteousness from God based on faith
  - o Better translated as "the faith of Christ" rather than Paul's own faith
- If somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead
- I press on to make it my own
- *This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead*
- Heavenly (upward) call

*After: Imitate me (Paul)*

#### Matthew 21:33-46

*Before: Parable of the two sons*

- (*Pretty Much Isaiah 5*)
  - o Any bible student would know exactly what Jesus is getting at with this parable
- Leased it and went to another country
  - o Tenant farmers were a common thing in the time – you can live and work the land and a portion is given to the landowner
  - o Is there another term that's better suited to help us understand than landowner?
- Slaves: beat one, killed another, stoned another
- More slaves: treated the same
- Son: killed
  - o While maybe unwise, the act to send the Son is not entirely foolish

- The motivation is the inheritance, trying to steal something not theirs by birthright
- He will put those wretches to a miserable death
  - Typical response of irresponsible tenants was eviction, but these aren't normal responses to the servants (also the reaction is more akin to the next few verses)
- Stone the builders rejected become the cornerstone
  - Psalm 118 – the congregation there had come through great distress
  - This is a massive jump in the storytelling which was about the awful tenants and is now about Jesus, the son
- This was the Lord's doing
  - Going back to Isaiah, The Lord provided everything for the vineyard
- Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people that produces
  - God's response – does this indicate even more patience?
- The one who falls on this stone will be broken/The stone will crush anyone on whom it falls
  -
- Crowds regarded him as a prophet
  - Once again, the leaders fear the crowd and don't act

*After: Parable of the wedding banquet*