

This Sunday we celebrate the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Gospel (*Matthew 21:33-43*) is yet another parable about vineyards. It follows on directly from last Sunday's parable about the two sons: the grumpy one who did the work and the smooth talker who didn't.

Remember that in our Sunday Gospel readings we have now moved into St Matthew's account of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. We will continue this account until the end of the church's year at the end of November.

Jesus is raising the stakes, and preaching directly against the elders and chief priests. He is accusing them of being bad tenants of the 'vineyard', in other words they have led the people astray. The servants that the owner sends are the prophets, which they ignored. The owner's son who they kill is clearly a prophecy of Jesus' crucifixion and death.

The message is in the last line. "The Kingdom of God will be... ..given to a people who will produce its fruit."

God is not interested in status, title, worldly authority, worldly power and so on. What matters to God is whether we do his will. God has a plan, a desire, a will for our lives, be they big or small, great or humble. If we start out today to follow that will as best we can, then the Kingdom of God will be given to us.