Homily for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2026 Year A

When parents invest so much love, care, and hope in a child, and then that child turns around and rejects them, there is surely no pain that is more intense and distressing than that rejection.

Isaiah uses that deeply wounding experience in the first reading today to try and express the sorrow of God when the children He loves turn their backs upon him. 'What more could I have done for my children that I did not do?'

Rejection is a sharp sword of sorrow that pierces our hearts and leads us deeply wounded. It is something that we will all encounter in our journey through life and even Jesus himself was no exception.

The terrible truth is that the son of God came to earth, showed His love in every possible way, and was rejected.

In this very hard-hitting Gospel today we are exposed to the blunt truth that God has done everything possible for us His children by sending His son to live amongst us, and in return we have turned our backs and offered him nothing but black ingratitude and cold indifference.

It is not too difficult to see ourselves in the parable in the Gospel.

Each one of us is like that tenant, cultivating a small part of God's vineyard, and when harvest time comes around we are expected to produce the fruits, the fruits of right living and holiness, by displaying a brotherhood of caring, sharing, and showing forth the charity of the Gospel in our lives.

In everyday terms, it is putting into practise each day throughout the week what it is we profess that we believe in when we come to celebrate mass each Sunday.

This parable challenges us to keep on working in God service, in God's vineyard, and not to become dispirited or complacent.

We should examine our consciences now and then to see if we are producing the fruits of God's love. There will be a harvest time for each one of us, a day of reckoning when we will be answerable for the way that we have carried out the task given to us by almighty God.

The Lord will be bitterly disappointed if we have just lazily sat back and failed to appreciate the beauty of our lives, the joy of our families, and His own loving care.

What if, at the end of our lives, as death approaches, we have nothing to offer the Lord but the green sour grapes of a Pagan lifestyle. If that is true we will have smothered a beautiful being with indifference, ingratitude, selfishness, neglect and have become useless to God.

Christ in that parable is concerned that we respond to His appeal to bear fruit, to become an immense and beautiful harvest.

How do we do that?

Nothing dramatic or spectacular, but just to daily watch over, care for, and water the vineyard of our hearts, to create the conditions that allow the love of God to grow.

Saint Paul provides a bit of advice in the 2nd reading as to how we can guard our hearts, 'Fill your mind with everything that is true and noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, everything that can be thought virtuous and worthy of praise.'

Such timely advice when we live in an age where we are bombarded with data and so much rubbish that can harm and destroy our Peace of Mind.

Take special care to guard and tend the vineyard of your hearts so that when the time for your harvest comes, it is not sour grapes, but an abundance of fruit that you can surrender to the Lord.