

Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year

Listen to God's message

INTRODUCTION

Jesus came to share the Good News and to bring God's message to all people. He wanted them to learn how to live in the love of God and one's neighbour, and to know what mattered most in life. Many people did not listen, and so Jesus told them that he would give his message to others.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Listen carefully to the words of this reading from the Book of Proverbs as we light our candles.
(cf Proverbs 4:18-19)

The path to our heavenly Father is like the rising sun, getting brighter and brighter as we draw closer to God. Those who turn away from his love, follow a path as dark as the night, and they stumble and fall because they cannot see the way.

SORRY

Sing Sorry Song 4:

When we say that we are sorry.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(The children can join in and say the alleluia's)

Alleluia, Alleluia

Lord, open our ears and hearts, so we will hear and understand the message of your Gospel.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL (cf Matthew 21:33-43)

Jesus told another parable to the people: 'There was once a farmer who owned a vineyard. He had to go away on business, and so he put some farm workers in charge of the vineyard. When it was time to harvest the grapes, the farmer sent some servants to collect his share. But the farm workers beat his servants and chased them away. The farmer did not give up, and sent more servants to collect what belonged to him. Again, they were beaten and chased off. Finally the farmer sent his own son, 'I am sure that they will treat him better,' he said. Instead the farm workers seized the son and killed him.'

Then Jesus asked, 'What will the farmer do when he arrives at the vineyard?'

The people who had been listening answered,

'He will punish the farm workers and put other people in charge of his vineyard.'

DISCUSSION

Imagine if the vineyard was the whole world.

Who would be in charge of it all? God made the world, and everything belongs to him. In the story he is like the farmer. God trusts us to take care of what we have been given, just as the farmer trusted the farm workers.

What happened when the farmer sent his servants with a message? – The farm workers were not willing to listen to the message. They were greedy and selfish and they chased the servants away.

In the Old Testament, God sent many of his servants with messages for the people. What were they called? Do you remember any of their names? – They were called prophets, and they were sent by God to tell the people to turn back to God and lead lives full of God's goodness and love. Some of the greatest prophets were Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel.

Do you think people treated the prophets as badly as the farm workers treated the servants in the story? – Often the message of a prophet was ignored or the people refused to believe it, and sometimes they too were chased away.

In the parable, the farmer was compared with God the Father. Who do you think we can compare with the farmer's son? – God the Father sent his only son, Jesus, to carry his message, just as the farmer in the story sent his son. Many heard his message and turned back to God, but some refused to listen and believe, some even put Jesus to death. Just as the vineyard would be taken from the farm workers who would not listen to the master's message, so the kingdom of God will be taken from those who do not listen to God's message, and given to others who listen and live according to God's way.

ACTIVITY

Help each child to make a face which reminds us how important it is to use our senses to understand the message Jesus shared.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, open our ears to hear your message and help us to understand it.
Help us to share the message of your saving love with others,
so that they too can share in your kingdom.