

ICCH
International Catholic Community of Heidelberg

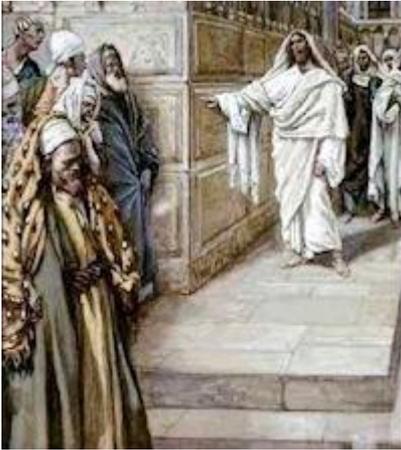
St. Michael's Church, Kirschgarten Str. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Sudstadt
062.21.13.020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

October 5, 2014

Today's Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7 | Philippians 4:6-9 | Matthew 21:33-43

Welcome Father Peter

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



There are two leading thoughts in today's gospel that come to the mind of any true believer on hearing this parable: the infinite goodness, patience and mercy of God in His dealings with mankind, and the unsounded depths of wickedness and ingratitude to which men can sink. To His Chosen People of the Old Testament, God had given a fertile and fully-equipped vineyard — His revelation, His protection, a homeland of their own in Canaan, and all this in order to prepare them for the future Messiah, who would bring them an eternal home in God's own Kingdom. All He asked in return was their cooperation.

But they had other plans; they wanted their kingdom on earth. Yet God was patient with them; again and again He pardoned their infidelities. He sent them prophet after prophet to recall them to their senses, but they maltreated these messengers of God and refused to heed their warnings.

Then "the fullness of time" came and He sent His divine Son on earth in human form. He took His human nature from one of their race, lived among them and preached His gospel of love and peace to them. He tried to soften their hard hearts, and made them the final offer of the Father's mercy and pardon. But instead of accepting God's offer of mercy the chief priests and elders only made it an occasion of an even greater sin. To their crimes of infidelity and injustice they added the murder of God's Messiah and Son.

In God's plan of love and mercy the tragedy of Calvary turned out to be the great "triumph of failure." That death brought life to the world and opened the gates of God's eternal kingdom for all nations and races. The Gentiles rallied around the standard of Christ. A new vineyard was set up in which all men could work for their Father in heaven and for their own eternal interests.

We Christians today are the successors of the first Gentile followers of Christ. We too have been called to work in God's vineyard. Are we working honestly and devotedly? Are we producing the grapes and the wine that our divine Master expects of us? If our answer is "yes, I am living a true Christian life, I am working for God's honor and glory and for my own eternal salvation," then we can say a heartfelt "thank you" to our merciful Father, and ask him to keep us ever on this right path. But if our answer is "no," then let us pay heed to today's lesson. What happened to the chief priests and elders can and will happen to unfaithful Christians if they persevere in their infidelity and disobedience. But we can still put ourselves right with God. Let us do it today — tomorrow may be too late.

Source: <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2014-10-05>

NEWS ...

Social gathering: There will be a social gathering after mass today. Let us endeavor to attend and socialize with one another. Please bring something along to share with the community as well.

Choir Members needed! Join us at 12:15 before Mass to practice. All are welcome to sing with us!

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:
infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com