Will you trust and listen to Jesus?



Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: 'A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall round it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

'He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, "They will respect my son."

'But the tenants said to one another, "This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours." So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

'What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. Haven't you read this passage of Scripture:

'"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes"?'

Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

~ Mark 12:1-12 ~

Have your parents or your teachers ever told you to do something but didn't listen and failed to do the thing you were meant to do?

How much trouble did you get into for that?

In the story Jesus tells in Mark 12:1-12 he is reminding the leaders of God's people, the Jewish leaders, that God had sent prophets, over and over, to remind God's people to go back to living God's way.

However, instead of listening to what God was telling his people through the prophets, the leaders of God's people ignored, hurt, and even killed God's prophets. But even then, God still sent the prophets to remind them to turn back to him.

Jesus used his story to show that God was now sending his own son, who he loved – that is Jesus – to come and tell his people to turn back to God. But just like the leaders of God's people didn't trust and listen to the prophets, they didn't listen to Jesus either. In fact, that killed Jesus.

Because the leaders of God's people did not trust or listen to Jesus, God punished them.

It is the same for us; we have the same choice. We can decide to trust and listen to Jesus, and know we are part of God's forever family, or we can decide to ignore Jesus and face God's just punishment.

So will you trust and listen to Jesus for yourself?

Some questions to think about:

1. What did the people in the vineyard do to the servants that came to get the fruit?
2. What did the people in the vineyard do to the son when he came to get the fruit?
3. What was Jesus teaching us with this story?
4. Why is it important to trust and listen to Jesus?

Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you that you want everyone everywhere to be part of your forever family. Thank you that you give us lots of warnings to turn to you. Please help me to trust and listen to Jesus for myself.
Amen.