

Where's Your Chair?

Mark 12 1-12



The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.
Psalm 19:9-10

Praising:

Christ is our corner-stone, on him
alone we build;
with his true saints alone the
courts of heaven are filled:
on his great love our hopes we
place
of present grace and joys above.

Reading:

Mark 12:1-12
The parable of the vineyard

Jesus is telling this parable in Jerusalem. God has left the chief priests, the scribes and the elders in charge of his vineyard. But they are only tenants. The rent is still rightfully his. Effectively, the religious leaders of Jesus' day have turned on God's rent collectors – first the prophets, then the Son. Why? There will always be a danger of the institutions of religion taking on

the profit-centred, greed-driven qualities of a business. Of course if the real riches of God are spiritual rather than financial, then perhaps what the tenants are really guilty of is keeping the blessings of God for themselves. What Jesus would then seem to be saying, is that the blessings of God are not to be hoarded but shared – with at least some of them being given back to God in worship and gratitude.

Listening:

Praying:

We pray simply Lord

- for a faith that seeks not to get but to give
- for a Church that seeks not to be preserved but to serve
- for a world that seeks not to keep but to care

Father: save me from the sin of wanting to keep you to myself, from the lie that your love is not for everyone, from the fear that holds on to your blessing rather than gives it back to you. Amen

Doing: