

**Meditation 2014-03-21**  
**Friday Of The Second Week Of Lent**  
**Meditation Theme: “Do I Do What God Has Given Me To Do?”**

**Place yourself** in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Gospel of today’s Mass

**A**T that time Jesus spoke this parable to the multitude of the Jews and the chief priests: There was a man, an householder, who planted a vineyard, and made a hedge round about it, and dug in it a press, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen; and went into a strange country. And when the time of the fruits drew nigh, he sent his servants to the husbandmen that they might receive the fruits thereof. And the husbandmen laying hands on his servants, beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants more than the former; and they did to them in like manner. And last of all he sent to them his son, saying: They will reverence my son. But the husbandmen seeing the son, said among themselves: This is the heir: come, let us kill him, and we shall have his inheritance. And taking him, they cast him forth out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the lord of the vineyard shall come, what will he do to those husbandmen? They say to him: He will bring those evil men to an evil end; and will let out his vineyard to other husbandmen, that shall render him the fruit in due season. Jesus saith to them: Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? By the Lord this has been done; and it is wonderful in our eyes. Therefore I say to you, that the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and shall be given to a nation yielding the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone, shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it shall grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they knew that he spoke of them. And seeking to lay hands on him, they feared the multitudes: because they held him as a prophet.

**Point 1.** – Jesus relates a parable that “everyone knows” relates to the Pharisees, including the Pharisees. The householder is God, the vineyard is His Holy Religion, the husbandmen are the Pharisees and the chief priests, the householders servants are the Prophets, and the householder’s son is Jesus, our Lord.

**Point 2.** – Jesus explains that the chief priests and Pharisees have failed in their duty to God’s Religion, and they have done so on purpose rather than inadvertently.

**Point 3.** – The multitude of the Jews knew that Jesus was speaking of the chief priests and the Pharisees. The chief priests and the Pharisees knew that Jesus was speaking of them. All who heard knew that what Jesus was telling them was obviously true.

**Meditation:** Jesus, in this parable, lays only the thinnest of veils over the truth He is telling. Those who were entrusted with protecting God's Holy Religion have purposely gone against their duty. And they condemn themselves.

Am I among the ones who have failed? Have I a duty to protect God's vineyard? Where do I fit within this parable? Am I not, at least in some way, a Pharisee? Have I not been given the gift of Faith? Do I make it produce fruits? Do I return these fruits to God? What about God's Religion seems most important to me? That I have it? That it really belongs to God?

Am I a Pharisee? Am I happy that God has given me the gift of Faith? Do I take pride in the fact that God has given me the gift of Faith? Does it make me special? Does it mean that God loves me more than those who haven't accepted the gift He has offered them? Should I attempt to "grow" the Faith? If I can get others to accept the gift of Faith, would that be considered "good fruit?"

What is my duty to God's Religion? Is it there to tend me, or do I have to tend it? Do I weed, and water, and prune? Do I do what will produce the most fruits? Do I know what will produce the most fruits? Is it written down somewhere?

**Colloquy:** Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

**Hold the Gain:** Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.