

Today's scripture reading is one that as I was reading through it the first time, or the first couple times, it made sense to me but I didn't know why. I didn't know why this scripture reading is for right now. And we, we talk about how the season of Lent is about sacrifice but it seems like the end of the season of Lent is about history. We spend so much time talking about the same stories during Holy week. We talk about PAIm Sunday and then we go into Maundy ThursdayAnd Good Friday and then we have Easter and then we will learn on Wednesday that there's another holiday that is recognized in the Christian church so we don't talk about does anybody remember ?Lazarus Saturday; Lazarus supper Saturday. It's a new one that we just out. I had never thought about that before. The point of what I am trying to talk about is how these all play together and it all plays into our scripture reading. We know this. Each week we talk about new scriptures.

This scripture reading should sound very familiar, not because you have heard it a million times over the years but because we just read the original of this parable a few months ago. Jesus is telling this parable to the Pharisees, but he is quoting Isiah. And like I said, we read it a few months ago. It's called The Song of the Vineyard in Isiah and Isaih is telling the prophecy of God and how god had built this vineyard for everyone. He cultivated the land. He made it for us. He made a fence to protect everything within, He made the pit so that it would be easier to harvest the grapes and make the wine. He made a watch tower so that whoever was tending to it could rest in peace. They would know that they are above everybody else, so they were safer. But when Isaih is talking about this, he is talking about God and the nation of Israel and how if they don't accept it and adhere to it there will be repercussions. Now we know that throughout history there are always repercussions with Israel, with the Isrealites how different things would happen, like with Moses.

If they started to worship false idols again then they were banned in the wilderness. We know that these things happen over and over and over. And we have talked about God using a new approach. He is using Jesus to show how much he loves and cares for the people so Jessus is using this old parable when he is talking to the Pharisees. And the Pharisees get upset because they realize that when Jesus is talking, he is not just telling them scripture they already know. They realize that he knows that they want to kill him. He knows that it is their intention to destroy them. Time wise where we are at right now. He has already brought back Lazerruth. We know how important that is in the story line from our discussions a couple Wednesdays ago, how Mary Bethany played a part in this, How she took Jesus to the tomb, the same Pharisees went with them.

They realized that he is creating more of a problem for them, not because they don't necessarily believe that he is the Messiah but they believe there will be problems from Rome because he is the Messiah and they figure if they can get him captured and killed they can continue on with how they are doing things, They can continue to reap the reward of where they are at. And he knows this and he sees this. And he gives them this story. So they are trying to figure out how they are going to get him, so they try to get more people to come and try to trick him. So if they can trick him into saying that they shouldn't tax Caesar then the Romans will be right on him and they will not have to bloody their hands so to speak. They can stay in the background and be fine. And he realizes this so he tells them.

Give Caesar what Caesars. You don't see God's face on a coin, so give it back to him. You give God what God gives you. And he gives us love. He gives us wisdom and guidance. He gives us everything we need to survive and all he asks is that we share it in return. This week at the Lenten luncheon, Pastor Don was talking about 1 Corinthians 13. It is also called the book of Love. and he broke it down for us. And as we were sitting at the table, everybody started talking and people were talking about St Paul's. He was asking, what can you do to give back to the community. What can you do to show the love that you have for God and you can give back to the community. And every table I heard talked about what we do here. We already know Caesar will get what Caesar wants and God will get what God needs. We know how to show his love to everybody. We know how important that love is and we show it on a regular basis. We show it often enough that when they want an example in the community, they mention us. You know St Malachy's was talking about what we do. The E Free was talking about what we do. St John's is always talking about what we do. They know how much we love our community, how much we love God, and how much we love each other. They are openly talking about it amongst themselves and amongst others to find that love too, So it is a fantastic thing that we give God what is God's.