

Based on the gospel for Sunday 8 October - Matthew 21:33-43

"The kingdom of God will be given to a people who will produce its fruit."

In order to understand this parable, we need to go back to the context – the fact that there is some tension, some conflict, between Jesus and the chief priests, the scribes and the Pharisees. They question his authority and Jesus, in turn, confronts them with their hypocrisy and hardness of heart.

The Religious authorities would have understood that this parable was being directed at them – that the landowner represents God, the vineyard his Kingdom, the servants those who faithfully believe and the son, Jesus. The Religious leaders would have recognised themselves as the tenants in the story, the ones who rejected Jesus – not a flattering portrayal!

What can we take from this story, then, on this, CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day? Perhaps it is an opportunity to reflect on whether our lives at the moment produce the fruit of the Kingdom of God – are our actions inclusive, welcoming and hospitable to those living in poverty and those on the margins? Or perhaps there are parts of ourselves which are similar to those who were judging, undermining and criticising Jesus, rejecting God's love in favour of a safe and comfortable life?



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Compassionate God, this Harvest Fast Day, let us remember in particular our brothers and sisters throughout the world for whom every day is a struggle for survival. Open our hearts so that we may be bearers of the fruits of your Kingdom. Amen.