

Gospel Reading - Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus tells the parable about the wicked tenants.

Family Connection

In an ideal household, family members know the rules and follow them consistently. Even the most conscientious among us, however, sometimes needs to be reminded of the rules and their importance. How we respond to such correction reveals our true character. In today's Gospel Jesus exposes the religious leaders for their failure to heed God's messengers. It is an opportunity for us to consider how we respond to those who are God's messengers today, calling us to correct our ways and return to the way of the Lord.

As you gather as a family, talk about some of the most important rules of your household. Consider how consistently family members follow these rules. How are family members reminded when rules are not being followed? How do they respond? In today's Gospel Jesus corrects the religious leaders through a parable telling them that they have not heeded God's messengers. Read Matthew 21:33-43. What are some of God's rules that we must follow? How do we respond to God's messengers today? Together as a family go over "Thinking About My Actions" page. As you go through them, ask, "How can our family do better?" Pray together as a family that you will heed God's messengers and follow God's ways. Pray together the **Act of Contrition** for the times when your family has not heeded God's word.

Act of Contrition

**My God, I am sorry for my sins with all
my heart. In choosing to do wrong and
failing to do good, I have sinned against
You whom I should love above all things.**

**I firmly intend, with your help, to do
penance, to sin no more, and to avoid
whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior
Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.**

In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen

Thinking about My Actions

1. What happened today that makes me feel good and happy? What happened today that I feel sad about? What did I do to make someone else happy today?
2. When do I pray and talk to God? What do I put first in my life (sports, shopping, family, toys, TV)? What place does God have in my life and the life of my family?
3. Do I have reverence for God's name? Do I ever use words that are rude or crude? Do I use the name of God to express anger or disappointment, even in joking?
4. Do I participate in the liturgy on Sunday? Do I have reverence for the persons, places, and things in church? How important is my parish to me? Do I share my time, talent, and treasure with others?
5. How do I honor my parents? Do I show respect for my teachers, coaches, catechists, grandparents, and others who guide and care for me? Do I ever cause my parents to get angry or impatient with me?
6. How do I care for my pets? Do I show love and care for those in my family who are younger than me? Do I thank God for the gift of life? Do I care for creation? Do I fight on the playground or act as a bully at school or at home?
7. Do I have a space around me that is just my space, for example, my bedroom? Do I take care of it? Do I take care of my body as a holy gift from God? Do I respect other people's private space?
8. Do I respect what belongs to others? Do I take things that belong to others? Do I ever take things from stores? Do I take good care of my own things? How do I care for the environment?
9. Do I tell the truth no matter what? Do I think that "little" lies are all right? Do I say bad things about others that may not be true? Do I harm the good name of others?
10. Am I jealous of others or what they may have? Do I always want more than I have or am I satisfied with what I have? How do I care for my needy sisters and brothers?