



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

²In that day—

“Sing about a fruitful vineyard:

³ I, the Lord, watch over it;

I water it continually.

I guard it day and night

so that no one may harm it. (Isaiah 27:2-3)

The above passage comes from the prophetic oracles of the school of Isaiah. In these verses, like in Jesus’ parable in Mark 12:1-12, God speaks about his people being like a fruitful vineyard. Grape vineyards were very important in the ancient world. Wine was a primary source of hydration. Vineyards take a lot of care and nurture. God speaks of watching over the vineyard (people of Israel) and caring for them.

Similarly, Jesus speaks about the landowner, who like God, sends servants and eventually his son to get his portion of the fruit of the vine. In Isaiah, God’s involvement in caring for his vineyard is a celebratory time of singing. However, in Jesus’ story, it is a somber time as each servant and eventually the son is beaten and/or killed. Mark is setting the stage for Jesus’ soon arrest, beating, and crucifixion.

If we are to be like God, then we are to help care for each other. Isaiah speaks of God watering continuously, guarding the vineyard through the wee hours of the night and seeing to it that no harm comes. We are to be that kind of person for each other. Looking after one another, caring for our friends and family, and even showing empathy and compassion to a stranger.



REFLECTION:

Consider the parallels between caring for a garden and caring for one another.

PRACTICE:

This week, find time to go out of your way to show care and concern for another person.