



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*April 7, 2019*

### Slaves, Prophets & the Son of Man

Bible Reference: Luke 20:9-20

Some parables that Jesus uses in the Bible we have to dig into more to learn about the cultural references of the day in order to understand more completely the point Jesus was trying to make. We did that last week with the parable of the Prodigal Son. Rather than stopping with the obvious meaning, we examined the cultural understanding of inheritance and it brought a whole new dimension to the parable. This week we have another such parable. The obvious correlation is how God is sending people into the mission field and yet they get chased out, as represented by the owner sending his servants to the vineyard. At the end, the parable compares the death of the owner's son to the very difficult truth of how God's own Son, Jesus, will be killed as well.

But let's dig deeper into word translations, and what images come to mind for us with the use of certain words. In the parable we hear the owner sending his servants to the vineyard to do his bidding. "Servant" is the word they use in the ESV (English Standard Version), but in the original Greek, Jesus used the word "slave." How can God equate His people, His prophets, to slaves? When we hear the word "slave," we often think of the horrible things that happened in U.S. history, and rightfully so. Thus, just the use of this word can pull people away from the powerful meaning of this parable (which is perhaps why that word has been changed in various Biblical translations). However, I venture to say that Jesus had a very different understanding of that word otherwise He wouldn't have used it.

Words change over time, and the meaning can impact people differently. We can learn from these parables in God's Word to connect with our context. We need to stop, think, and make sure our hearers understand what we are saying in the way that we intend them...in the right context. It in our conversations it is important not to just assume the words will be taken the way we meant them.

This weekend we will look at this powerful parable and the story it tells of how many would reject Jesus. We'll process through the words that might confuse us along the way, and then ask what this parable means for us today. The beauty is that at the center of this story is Jesus' death and His great message of redemption for each of us!

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*