

5595a

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
320 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, B. C. V6A 1P4

Ministers:

Rev. John Cashore
Rev. M. J. V. Shaver

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1981

10:30 A.M.

Morning Worship

(Heard

Organ Prelude: "Magnificat" Dandrieu
Call to Worship (congregation please stand)
Minister: With what shall we come before the Lord and
bow ourselves before God on high?
People: Shall we come before him thinking our rou-
tine presence here is enough to offer from
the fruits of our bodies for the transgres-
sions of our souls?
Minister: No. God has shown us what is good and we
know that what the Lord requires of us is
this.
People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to
walk humbly with him.
(Adapted from Micah 6: 6 - 8)
Prayer of Invocation
Hymn No. 50 (1) "Holy, Holy, Holy"
Prayer of Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Reading Isaiah 5: 1 - 7
Phillipians 4: 4 - 9
Ministry of Music: "Andantino" A. Bopulus
Scripture Matthew 21: 33 - 43
Coming as Children Marianna Harris
Hymn No. 290 "Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands"
Sermon "ON BEING CALLED TO ACCOUNT"
Rev. John Cashore
Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Offering: Prayer, Offertory, Doxology
Announcements
Hymn No. 139 (403) "How Firm a Foundation"
Benediction
Organ Postlude: "Fugue in G" J. S. Bach

Organ Prelude
Call to Worship
Hymn No. 29 (9) vs. 1
Invocation
Programme Identification
Ministry of Music: -
Scripture Lesson
Ministry of Music
Pastoral Prayer and L
Ministry of Music
Sermon "YES WE
Hymn No. 107 "All P
-- off air
Offering: P
Announcements
Hymn No. 249 (286)
Benediction
Organ Postlude

The music this evening
ial Chapel Choir under

Conducting the

10

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FIRST UNITED CHURCH BROADCAST

SUNDAY OCT. 25 1981

Yes We HAVE READ THE SCRIPTURES

Every once in a while New Testament writers come on with a remark something like this

"Come on you people - haven't you read so and so in the scriptures - - - - - ?"

Matthew records Jesus doing this several times.

The Point of the approach is in the fact that those addressed have indeed read the passage. The problem is not that the people have not read the passage but that they have not taken in ^{what} the passage was saying.

Of most of us taking part in this service it can be said that we have read the scriptures.

But the significant question is -

One we hearing the message God is trying to convey through the scriptures.

Or to put it more invitingly - there is more in the scriptures than meets the eye right off. These are the vessels for word that rest on the surface.

In our scriptures lessons for tonight -

We have one song about a Vineyard
one story about a vineyard

A quote from an old familiar hymn
(Psalm 118) and an
application of that line from the hymn

The oldest piece is the Song of the Vineyard.
 Saved for us in the 5th Chapter of the Book

of Isaiah → Bitingly Satirical — spoof
 of a Fertility Cult liturgy —
 — Royal Fertility Religion —

King = God - God's Anointed
 Personification of Power.

Garden: — Crops & Vineyard

→ If the Cult practiced properly
 His Garden Flourished

→ husbandry of the Nation
 Flourished

Nation Prosperous + Strong.

Celtic rites properly performed

NOT SO: message of Prophets of Israel. →
 → not what God - Religion was
 all about →

Focus points to get the Fates
 + Powers of Divinity to favour you.

economic justice. Poor
 widows, orphans,
 Because honest.

Fairly responsible story.
 Integrity in relationships -

ISAIAH'S Biting spoof. →

→ Sig a Song of Belshazzar's Feast
 — did evilly well — Wild Gorge!

→ looked for judgment — Blood shed
 looked for righteousness — beheld a cry

This song is in the mind of the
 Story Teller —

Or the ones who remembered
 and recorded the story.

Story of

Vineyard — owner

— husband men — refuse to render
 fruits of the vineyard to the owner
 and attempt through foul play
 to get to be owner.

One is hard put to know for certain
 what Jesus had in mind when he told
 that story. By the time Mark has come
 upon it in the tradition and included
 it in his Gospel it is clear what the early
 church heard in the story: — what they
 used it for — A judgment of all priests — scribes — pharisees

It is even clearer what Matthew heard
 in the story — for his slight variations in the
 record has Jesus say —

"Therefore I say to you — The Kingdom of God
 shall be taken away from you and
 given to a nation producing the
 fruits of it."

Anything for our ears in this combination
 of lessons. Beasts out — heard for
 first time — Fresh time?

* What is being addressed in all these Nations
 Lesser Kingdoms Talk in Synoptic Gospels: -
 bears some pretty hefty reference to Nations.
 ↑ National life.

← Certainly if you let the Vineyard Song add
 any ^{more} ~~more~~ resonates down the years and into the

It is
 clear
 that
 the
 Nations

← Stones → There is no mistaking what
 is meant by a Nation which fails to produce
 the Fruit of the Kingdom.

The Wild Grapes of Israel's vineyard -
 I looked for justice but behold justice

For righteousness but behold, a crop.
 With the Prophecy of Israel it hard to distinguish
 religion from politics - it probably can't
 be done.

+ For the reference of this ^{Kingdom} Parable as it
 was heard by the early Church →
 Hard to separate Religion & Politics
 Husbandmen & Stewards of the Kingdom: -
 Who Forget where Kingdom it is →
 will have the Kingdom taken away
 & given to a nation who will produce
 the Fruit of justice & Righteousness.

All Three Gospels Mark, Math, Luke
 include at least one line from psalm

118 - Have you never read in
 The scriptures →

The very stone which the Builders reject
 has become the head stone of the Corner

It's obvious by the placement of this line in this term that some significant people in the early Church heard a slightly different message.

The Kingdom will be taken from those who think it theirs and given to someone who will produce the fruits.

— Some are you even expecting to will produce the fruits.

In the Book of Acts

in Epistle of Peter } some line is recalled only there what's heard is a testimony to Christ's rejection, death & resurrection. The one we thought was a bust God made the head stone of the Corner — it's God's doing & working in our eyes.

What a two-edged sword the word of God is. ———— !!!

Warning & Promise in the same mouthful.

(a) → **Not** producing fruits of justice & righteousness — Warning.
— What do you think it's all been about.

↑ What should happen to such husbandmen?

(b) Wear & Struggle

under the great burden of producing justice & righteousness

Take Heart — you'll be surprised who will be raised up to produce the fruits of the Kingdom