

ADVENT DEVOTION: NOVEMBER 29, 2022

LUKE 20:9-18

WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE...

You may have heard the phrase, what's yours is mine, and what's mine is yours. If so, you've probably also heard the other version, what's yours is mine, and what's mine is... mine!

This other version seems to be the attitude of the tenants in the parable Jesus tells. Of course, the vineyard was never really theirs, but it seemed to them like it was theirs. Likewise, it can sure feel like all this is ours: the earth, our property, our portfolios. In reality, it's all a gift from God. The universe, and everything and everyone that inhabits it, is part of the creation of God. As such, it belongs to God and it all has been put into our collective care as tenants.

When I think about how this parable could have gone, it's quite a pity. Just imagine if the tenants finally said, "What were we thinking?! Here is your portion of the produce of your vineyard. In fact, we'd love to hear what else you have in mind for this vineyard so we can enjoy it together!" The owner gives the tenants multiple chances to come to their senses. Likewise our God, who is just but also compassionate, is waiting for us to have a change in our hearts and minds too.

May this time of Advent be an opportunity for us to remember whose vineyard this really is. By learning and practicing how to curb our greed may we more fully participate in the harvest of the vineyard... a harvest we all are meant to enjoy!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What are things in your life that you have assumed are "yours" when, really, they are gifts to be shared?
2. What would it look like to take those things and give "a portion" of them to God?

~Bill Buchanan



BILL BUCHANAN

Bill Buchanan is the Executive Director of the non-profit ministry Youth Mission Co as well as an ordained pastor of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He lives in Asheville, NC.