



Week beginning October 4th

Grateful hearts, Generous Lives: Bearing the Fruit God Seeks

Opening Questions

- When did you last take on the responsibility for looking after something on behalf of someone else? (eg a garden or a pet). How did you feel about the responsibility? Did all go well or were there some mishaps?
- What do you think God has given you responsibility for?

Getting into the text

Read Matthew 21:33-46

- How did the landowner in the parable prepare the vineyard? Why do you think he prepared so thoroughly?
- Who do you think the landowner represents? Who are the tenants? What does the landowner expect from them?
- What happened when the landowner sent his servants to collect his share of the crop?
- Why did he then send his son? How does what happened show the wrong attitudes of the tenants?

- How did Jesus link the parable to himself and the responsibilities of those in God's kingdom? Why were the Pharisees and priests so angry with him?

Applying the Bible to your life

- In verse 43 Jesus says that the kingdom of God will be 'given to a people who will produce its fruit.' What do you think this fruit looks like in the life of an individual believer? And in the life of a church?
- What might help you to remember that you are a steward of all God has given you and not an owner?
- As this series comes to end what have you learned which will help St Philips become known for its generous discipleship?

Something to pray about

Jesus said, **'if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing.'** (John 15:5)

- Pray for St Philips church family, asking God to help each person to deepen their faith so that they bear fruit for him.
- Ask God to show you the areas of your life where you need to become a better steward and grow in generosity