

How to Have a Year that Lasts Forever

Dan Seitz, August 9, 2009

Luke 20:9-18

^{NIV} **Luke 20:9** He went on to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. ¹⁰ At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. ¹² He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. ¹³ "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.' ¹⁴ "But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. 'This is the heir,' they said. 'Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ¹⁵ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When the people heard this, they said, "May this never be!" ¹⁷ Jesus looked directly at them and asked, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone'? ¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

1. Remember the _____ in the story (v. 9).

^{NIV} **Ecclesiastes 12:1** Remember your Creator in the days of your youth

2. Consider the Man's passion for a _____ vineyard (vv. 9-10).

^{NIV} **Romans 8:19** The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

3. Venture into the vineyard even in the face of _____ (vv. 10-12).

^{NIV} **Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God

4. Savor the _____ of the Son (vv. 13-18).

Nine Incredible Gifts

John 3:16

II Cor. 1:22

I Pet. 4:10

Gal. 4:5

II Tim. 1:7

I Pet. 1:4

II Cor. 5:18

I Cor. 15/Phil. 3:21

Rev. 21:1

***If you allow the gospel to seep down deep, it unleashes incredible _____.**

^{NIV} **1 Peter 1:3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for you,

^{NIV} **Psalms 56:11** in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. In his message, Dan suggested that in order to have “a year that lasts forever,” it’s important to meditate regularly upon the truth that you were created for a purpose by a loving God. Spend a few minutes praising God as your creator and the creator of the universe. See Gen. 2: 15-25 and Psalm 8.

2. Dan suggested that the biblical teaching on the glorious future that Christians will enjoy is more specific than some people ordinarily think. See Romans 8, I Cor. 15, II Peter 3, and Rev. 21. Does the idea that the hope of Christians is to enjoy life in a new physical body in the new heavens and earth excite you? How does this reality help with the problem of suffering?

3. Does the fact that God’s ultimate intention is to renew his broken world change the way you think about the kind of “work” that counts for God? See I Cor. 15:58.

4. In his message, Dan suggested that in order to have “a year that lasts forever,” it’s important to “venture into the vineyard even in the face of fear.” Take some time to ask God where in his broken world he would have you venture out for the sake of demonstrating radical, practical love. Write down any ideas that the Holy Spirit gives you.

5. Dan said that when someone puts his faith in Jesus and his “once for all sacrifice,” he is given the “world’s greatest gift bag.” Read each of the passages on the previous page, and see if you can identify the nine great gifts.

6. In his message Dan suggested that taking risks is part and parcel of the Christian life. How can you and the members of your Home Group take a risk for God’s kingdom in this next year? What kind of practical ministry project would draw upon your group’s unique strengths but would also require radical dependence on God?