27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Homily: Fr. Shijo George
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In the Gospel, today, Jesus speaks about a vineyard that was carefully prepared by its owner. He planted it, protected it, and entrusted it to tenants. Everything was provided for them. They had the vineyard, the opportunity, and everything necessary to make it fruitful; but gradually, something went wrong in their hearts. They forgot that they were tenants. They began to behave as though they were the owners. Their problem was not simply that they wanted to have something; their problem was that their desire to possess became excessive. Greed took control of them, and when greed takes control of the heart, it does not remain satisfied with one thing; it always wants more. Eventually, these tenants were willing to destroy relationships, reject the servants of the owner, and even kill the owner's son.

This shows us something very important: greed can destroy the good things God has already given us.

God gives us family, friends, opportunities, talents, possessions, responsibilities and relationships. These are gifts. When we become excessively attached to them, we can turn God's blessings into instruments of destruction. A person may receive wealth, but greed can destroy his peace. A person may receive success, but pride and greed can destroy his relationships. A person may receive authority, but the desire for control can destroy the trust of others.

The tragedy of the tenants is that they destroyed the very vineyard from which they were receiving their blessings. Their greed made them lose what they were trying so desperately to possess. This can happen to the soul as well.

When we become obsessed with money, possessions, status, recognition or control, we may slowly lose generosity, gratitude, humility and love. We may gain many things in the world while losing something much more precious within ourselves. That is why this Gospel is ultimately an invitation to conversion. God does not immediately abandon the

tenants; He sends servants again and again. He gives them opportunities to change. God does the same with us. Every warning, every experience, every person who lovingly corrects us, and every moment of our conscience being pricked is God's invitation: “Come back. Change your heart. Do not allow greed to destroy what I have given you.”

The tenants forgot that they were only stewards. We too are only stewards on earth. Everything we have ultimately comes from God and is entrusted to us for a purpose; for salvation.

So today, let us ask ourselves: What am I holding too tightly? What has become more important to me than God? Is there some greed, possessiveness, or desire for control that is slowly destroying the goodness in my life?

Let us not wait until greed destroys everything. Let us accept God's invitation to conversion today. The greatest tragedy is not losing what we possess; it is losing the goodness of our soul, inner peace, and joy while trying to possess more and more.