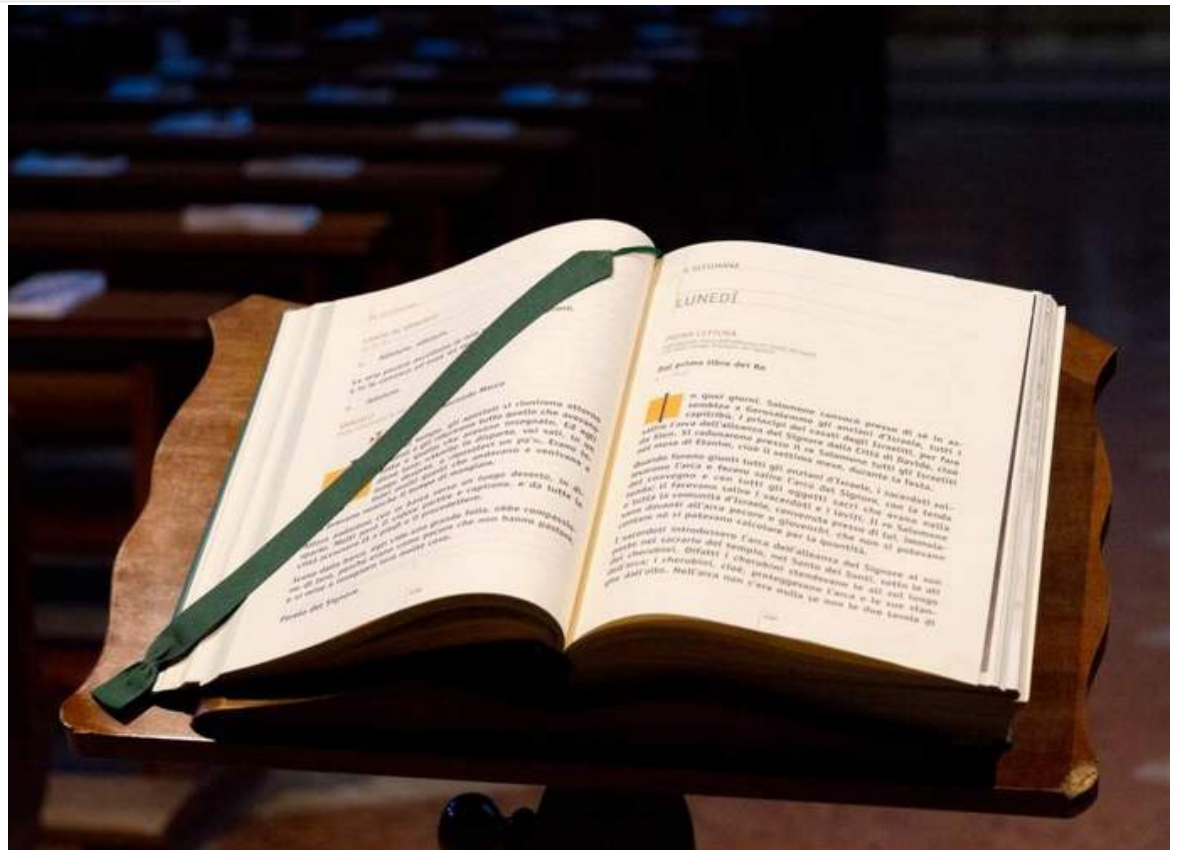


GOSPEL PEARLS

Accountable to Jesus

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"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. 'The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. 'But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This

is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes" "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. (Matthew 21: 33-43)

Jesus tries to teach parables to the chief ministers and people that the mere gift of being born Jewish is a responsibility for which God will hold them accountable. Indeed, the gifts that God gives us in this earthly life are, therefore, subject to time. Thus, even though they have been received at a moment in time, one day thus must be given back to God. Gifts must be shared in order to be multiplied, like seeds that must die in order to bears fruit. Today when we pray, let us remember that one day we will be held accountable to Jesus.