***Tuesday: Jesus’ Authority***

**Luke 20:1-19; Psalm 91 April 7, 2020**

***“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces,
but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”*Luke 20:18, with reference to Genesis 3:15**

**Reading: Luke 20:1-19**

**Reflecting:**

Jesus’ very presence in Jerusalem that Passover week highlighted the conflict between him and the Jewish leaders. Jesus trapped them in their own duplicity (verses 5-6) and then told them a pointed parable about a vineyard, one that the Jewish leaders were certain to realize was about them. The vineyard is God’s people, and the tenants were those given responsibility to tend that vineyard. The key question is this: How should the owner of the vineyard respond to tenants who rebel against that owner, even killing the heir, a clear reference to Jesus himself. And to make the point clear, Jesus ends by identifying himself with the Messianic power Psalm 118 and with a reference to Genesis 3:15.

How have I been assured of Jesus authority even as it looks like trouble might overwhelm?

We are both tenants and vineyard. How have I welcomed the King’s son?

**Praying: Psalm 91**

 *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
Surely you will save me from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.* Psalm 91:1-3

This psalm has become more meaningful to the people of God, just as it was to Martin Luther, as we face the deadly pestilence of the coronavirus. I find it significant that Satan himself used this psalm against Jesus (91:11-12, see Luke 4:10-11) even as we pray this psalm as an expression of our trust in God through difficult times. For all the psalmist’s pestilence and plague, there is a sublime peace in this prayer, a prayer ending with God answering and the prayer experiencing the satisfaction of salvation.

*Father, we pray out of hearts burdened with the pestilence which our community and world faces. Help us dwell in your shelter as we “stay home,” and help us rest well in your shadow.*

*Father, grace us with the same answer you gave the psalmist, with the promise of your deliverance and the satisfaction of your salvation.*