Spirituality
Pencil Preaching





by Pat Marrin

View Author Profile
patrickjmarrin@gmail.com.

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“Here comes that master dreamer!” (Gensis 37:20).

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

In today's pairing of the story of the betrayal of Joseph by his brothers and the plot by the vineyard tenants against the owner's son we see the rich texts the Gospel writers had at hand to apply to Jesus. He is the dream we all dream of finding our destiny in God.

Joseph is the beloved son of Jacob, opposed by his brothers out of jealousy and sold into slavery for 20 pieces of silver. But he will later save them and his people by providing bread in a time of famine. Jesus is again the beloved son of the vineyard owner, murdered when he is sent to ask the tenants for an account of their stewardship, based on the powerful vineyard song in Isaiah 5.

By weaving these two themes from the Hebrew Scriptures into the New Testament, the early Christian community saw the rejection and death of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Both ancient accounts are tragic love stories. The beloved boy in the rainbow coat and the innocent heir who comes to the vineyard are sacrificed within a much larger narrative revealed by God. We become the first fruits of God’s new Creation harvested by Jesus. He is that beloved son and heir to the promise offered to us through our sharing in his death and resurrection.

Lent is our time to see this larger narrative unfolding around Jesus and to take our place in the story. We are God’s beloved, but also stewards in the vineyard of redemption. Love dies if it is not reciprocated. No relationship takes hold and grows

without conscious recognition and participation. Discipleship is the way to enter the love relationship with God that puts us on the road with Jesus to the events of Holy Week and Easter.

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