

Thought for the Day 16 July 2020 from Peter Hemming

Today's readings are
a Prophecy to Eli in [1 Samuel 2](#) and the Parable of the Tenants in [Luke 20](#)

Ever felt 'got at'? I have.

When God speaks, and we each experience that differently, it is very hard to ignore his call. For me that 'call' has been 'different at different times' - organist, musician, home group leader, spiritual director, reader

Some of these I did willingly; for others, I needed a **lot** of persuasion!

So, Vineyards:

Vineyards crop up all through the bible in history, prophecy and poetry. [If you search for Vineyard in the [Bible Gateway](#), you'll get over 100 references.]

At the beginning of [Isaiah 5](#) the prophet spoke the 'Song of the Vineyard' and, hearing Jesus speak, the Jewish authorities knew that the Vineyard meant **them**. Personally, and as a nation. They recognised themselves.

They felt 'got at'. They did not like to be reminded they were tenants not owners of the Vineyard. Tenants have rights but bear expectations from the owner.

They were just tenants and owners can hand tenancies on. As 'God's chosen people', the Jewish authorities, did not like that idea.

In the Old Testament reading from 1 Samuel Eli is warned his priestly role/tenancy would soon end. Life would change.

We are unhappy when our 'patch of earthly ministry' is threatened; this we must accept, post Covid. Musicians, ministers, regular worshippers, preachers and everyone else (all those with roles/ 'power'/ tenancy), will need to welcome a new way of being church.

Like for the Jews of Jesus' time, we have known life as it was for ages.
Change will be difficult.

***Pray we will embrace change
and readily relinquish our tenancies,
as God advances his Kingdom.***

*[As Heston said yesterday, we cannot pray 'Your Kingdom Come' until we have also prayed,
'My kingdom go'.]*

(As usual, click on the links to see the readings).

And then here's a song to help us to reflect how we may remain in God's love accepting the changes that are coming

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw5En1VoYYw>