

Gospel of Matthew “Tenants and Owners”
Matthew 21:33-46
February 11, 2024

Matthew 21:33-46

33 “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. 34 When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. 35 And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ 39 And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” 41 They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. 44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. 46 And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

The tenants are acting as owners.

Isaiah 5:1-7

1 Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

2 He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

4 What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?

When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briars and thorns shall grow up;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

Every person has a desire for self determination.

Romans 8:7

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

God sends messengers.

Matthew 21:42-44

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We want God's love but not his judgement.

Jesus would actually become the cornerstone through rejection.

Jesus becomes the one on which we can build our lives.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through the Scriptures during our Sunday gathering?
- When have you done the things you wanted to do because no one of authority was around?
- Discuss the pros and cons of the cultural value of doing what makes you happy.
- What does Romans 8:7 mean that the “mind governed by the flesh is hostile towards God?”
- How does the parable show God’s patience? Are any of life’s circumstances trying to get your attention right now? What is the message they are trying to deliver?
- Why is God’s commitment to judgment and justice important and also comforting?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the one telling the parable about his own death?
- How can you apply the truth of the passage that you are not in charge, that you are a tenant? What might change this week?