

# The Wicked Tenants

Matthew 21:33-46

Faith Portal Church

**ADULT**

Unit 3 Lesson 10

## Supplemental Texts

Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19; Isa 5:1-7

## Focus Verse

“And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.” – Matthew 21:44

## Introduction

This parable is the second Jesus gave as a rebuke to His critics, the Jewish religious rulers, who questioned His authority for the things He did. He drove the moneychangers and traders out of the temple, restored the sight of the blind, and made the lame to walk (Matt 21:12-14), a day earlier. With this parable, the religious rulers were given the opportunity to see their errors and wickedness, as well as their terrible spiritual condition.

## Deeper Look

### There Was A Householder – Matt 21:33-37

Jesus Christ illustrated the Person of God in the householder, who delivered his vineyard to tenant farmers, who would ensure that the vineyard produce fruits—grapes. The farmers got a complete package: a vineyard already planted, a fence around it, a winepress, and a tower. The farmers nurtured the vineyard; the fence provided protection and separation; the winepress, for wine making; and the tower, for housing the watchmen. Sadly, the farmers refused to give the householder his share of the fruit and maltreated his servants.

### This Is The Heir – Matt 21:38-46

Not only did the farmers harm and kill the householder’s servants, but they also schemed to seize his vineyard. They killed his heir to the vineyard when they saw him. This speaks to Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion, which occurred outside the gates of Jerusalem (Heb 13:12). It seems the farmers wanted to be unaccountable both to the householder and his heir, and they wanted to deal with the vineyard the way they chose. Jesus’ critics wanted Him (the Heir of all things – Heb 1:1-2) out of the way that they might do whatsoever they wished with the property of God.

Jesus Christ caused the people to be their own judge (v. 41) by asking them a question in verse 40. He reminded them of the stone that was rejected by the builders as worthless but then found to be the head of the corner of the building (Psa 118:22-23). This stone is Jesus Christ; He was rejected by the Jews. Peter referred to Christ as the Stone twice (Act 4:11; 1 Pet 2:4-8).

## Questions

1. Did the householder have a valid reason to request his share of the fruits? Why?
2. What did the husbandmen do to the servants of the householder? Who did Jesus direct the parable at? Why? Was the nation of Israel guilty of the same crime of the husbandmen? See Jer 37:11-16; 38, 1 Kin 22:23-27, and 2 Chro 24:20-22?
3. The householder sent to the husbandmen more than once. What does this remind us about the character of God? Why did the householder send his son to the husbandmen? How did the husbandmen feel when they saw the son?
4. Did the Jewish religious leaders answer Jesus well in verse 41? To whom did Jesus say the kingdom of God will be given? Why is that?
5. What does each of the following characters represent in our text? Write down who each represents and narrate the parable in your own words using the supposed representations.
  - The householder –
  - The vineyard –
  - The husbandmen –
  - The servants –
  - The son or heir –
6. Why did Jesus make the statements in Matt 21:42,44? Matt 21:42 is taken from Messianic prophecy in Psa 118:22-23. It also appears in different forms in Isa 28:16; Act 4:11; 1 Pet 2:4-8.

## Personal Meditation

Jesus is the Head of the corner. He is the Stone which unites the Jews and the Gentiles in the Church. Though vehemently rejected by His people (John 1:11), yet through and by Him alone the kingdom of God is established. He is at the center of our faith (Heb 12:2) and in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead (Col 2:9). So, it is marvelous that the stone rejected by the religious builders (chief priests, elders, Pharisees, and Scribes) for lack of comeliness and beauty (Isa 53:2-3), is become the head of the corner on which the Church is built and upheld.

Jesus told the Jews that the kingdom of God set up within them and entrusted unto them, by which they are regarded as the chosen and special people of God, would be taken from them—because they failed to bear fruits—and presented to the Gentiles (who would produce fruits).

With allusion to Isa 8:14-15, Jesus states the outcomes of coming in contact with the “Stone.” Those who fall on this Stone (who offend in Him) will be broken, but those upon whom the Stone falls (who oppose and reject Him) will be crushed in the day of judgment.

## DAILY STUDY

Monday	Matt 21:33-34
Tuesday	Matt 21:35-36
Wednesday	Matt 21:37-39
Thursday	Matt 21:40-41
Friday	Matt 21:42-44
Saturday	Matt 21:45-46



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