

THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

Matthew 21:33-46

Key Verse: 21:33

"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey."

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read verses 33-34. How did the landowner prepare his vineyard? Why did he prepare so thoroughly? Who are the tenants? (45,46) If the landowner represents God, what does this teach about him? (See also Ge 1:1; Jn 1:1-4; Isa 40:11-13.)
2. What does the landowner expect of the tenants? What shows that they are not the owners, but stewards of the vineyard? What does it mean to be stewards of God's world? (Eph 2:10; Ge 1:28)
3. Read verses 34-40. When harvest time came and the owner sent his servants to get fruit, what happened? (35,36) What does it mean to "collect his fruit"? Who do the servants represent? Why did the tenants behave in this way?
4. Read verses 37-39 again. Why did the owner send his son? What did the tenants think and do when they saw the son? Who is the son? What does this reveal about sinful mankind? About God?
5. Read verses 40-46. What will the owner do? Look at verse 42. What did Jesus teach about the rejected stone? Who is the rejected stone? What do these things tell us about God's purpose and work in history?