**Scripture: Matthew 21: 33-46**

**The Parable of the Tenants**

**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 moved to another place. **34**When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

**35**“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. **36**Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. **37**Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

**38**“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ **39**So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

**40**“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

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**41**“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

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

“‘The stone the builders rejected    has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,    and it is marvelous in our eyes’[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21:33-46#fen-NIV-23869a)]?

**43**“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. **44**Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21:33-46#fen-NIV-23871b)]

**45**When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. **46**They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.