

**The Confrontation—Part 3**  
**The Parable of the Landowner**  
**Matthew 21:33-46**  
**(Mark 12:1–12; Luke 20:9–19)**

I. **The P\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 33-39)**

- a. **a landowner** = God the Father
- b. **a vineyard** = the nation of Israel (cf. Isaiah 5:1-7ff; Ps. 80:8–10; Jer. 2:21; Ezek. 19:10)
- c. **vine-growers** = Israel's Religious Leaders
- d. **his slaves** = God's Prophets (cf. Matt. 3:8-10; 7:16–20; 12:33; 13:8, 26; 21:19)
  - i. The differences between Matthew, Mark, and Luke are not discrepancies; they are different ways of giving the same eyewitness account
  - ii. This is a Parable, so we shouldn't try to align these slaves directly with individual prophets (cf. 1 Kings. 18:4; 22:24; 2 Kings 17:13; Jer. 2:30; 20:1-2; 26:20-23; 37:15; 38:6; 2 Chron. 24:20-21; 36:15-18; Neh. 9:26; Matt 23:34; Heb. 11:37)
  - iii. Sending so many slaves highlights God's patience and longsuffering!
- e. **my son** = Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God
- f. The real tragedy is that some of these Jewish Leaders actually believed that Jesus was the Messiah and yet still **They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him**

II. **The P\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 40-41)**

- a. Jesus' classic Rabbinic question leads the Jewish Leaders to unwittingly condemn themselves

- i. Just like the Pharaoh who declared the final plague on Egypt, these **wretches** declared that they would come **to a wretched end**

- b. **rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers** = the church

III. **The P\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 42-44)**

- a. **"Did you never read in the Scriptures** = divine and non-sinful sarcasm
- b. Jesus quotes the well-known Messianic Psalm 118 (cf. Matt. 21:9)
  - i. Far fulfillment was the rejection of Israel by the Gentiles
  - ii. Near fulfillment is Jesus, whom the Jewish Leaders will reject, but God will make **THE CHIEF CORNER stone** (cf. Acts 4:10-12; 1 Peter 2:7)
- c. Jesus makes a new prophecy = **the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people** = the church "replacing" Israel during this dispensation, until "<sup>25</sup>...until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; <sup>26</sup> and so all Israel will be saved..." (Rom. 11:25b-26aff)
- d. Jesus refers to another Old Testament prophecy = **this stone** = "**a stone was cut out without hands**" (Dan. 2:34-35; cf. Ps. 18; Isa. 28:16; Zech. 3:9)

IV. **The P\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 45-46)**

- a. When faced with their sinful wretchedness, these Religious Leaders like every other man, woman, and child must make a decision!
- b. Sadly, **they sought to seize Him**