

**Week of October 4, 2020**

**Matthew 21:33-46**

<sup>33</sup> "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

<sup>34</sup> When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.

<sup>35</sup> But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

<sup>36</sup> Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

<sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

<sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'

<sup>39</sup> So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

<sup>40</sup> Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

<sup>41</sup> They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

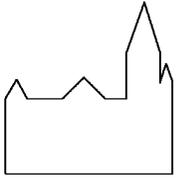
<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

<sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.

<sup>44</sup> The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.

<sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.



### Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

### Gathering questions:

- A. What is your oldest memory of someone who encouraged you? What is your oldest memory of someone who discouraged you?
- B. Who has owed you something for a long time? How do you feel about it?

### Bible Study Questions:

1. Why do you think the landowner doesn't visit the vineyard himself?
2. This story doesn't say how much of the produce belongs to the owner. What do you think the amount should be?
3. What are the "fruits of the kingdom"?
4. Why didn't the chief priests realize sooner that Jesus was speaking about them? Are we subject to the same blindness?
5. Name every person (by title/position, if you don't know their name) whom you could have encouraged in the last week.
6. In terms we like to use: time, talent, treasure – which one are you best at offering to God, and which of those is God getting less from you? What would enable you to offer more?
7. Who would you like to thank most (aside from family) for helping you become who you are? Who do you think (aside from family) might thank you for helping them become who they are?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways in which each person can deliver more produce in important ways