

The Parables of Jesus

Tenant Farmers

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

³³ “Now listen to another story. A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country.

³⁴ At the time of the grape harvest, he sent his servants to collect his share of the crop. ³⁵ But the farmers grabbed his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. ³⁶ So the landowner sent a larger group of his servants to collect for him, but the results were the same. ³⁷ “Finally, the owner sent his son, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’

³⁸ “But when the tenant farmers saw his son coming, they said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Come on, let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ ³⁹ So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and murdered him. ⁴⁰ “When the owner of the vineyard returns,” Jesus asked, “what do you think he will do to those farmers?”

⁴¹ The religious leaders replied, “He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest.” ⁴² Then Jesus asked them, “Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’ ⁴³ I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit. ⁴⁴ Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.”

Matthew 21:33-44 NLT

1. Tenant farmers get a great vineyard

- They treat the land like they own it
- Contempt and violence toward owner

2. God’s response

- Judgment for the wicked tenants
- Get new tenants

3. Our response

- Broken or crushed
- Accept Jesus as our cornerstone

Next Steps:

- Commit to honor God in my life and make/keep him as my #1 priority: _____
- Allow God to be more a part of my life so he can break apart my ego, false understandings, and my sinfulness: _____
- Read Matthew 21:33-46 and/or Luke 20:9-19
- Attend the rest of this series (or watch on our Youtube channel)
- _____