

Luke 20:9-18 **Vineyard – Vinedressers**

9 Then He began to tell the people this parable:

"A certain man planted a vineyard, leased it to vinedressers, and went into a far country for a long time.

10 Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vinedressers beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 Again he sent another servant; and they beat him also, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And again he sent a third; and they wounded him also and cast him out. 13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect him when they see him.'

14 But when the vinedressers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.' 15 So they cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those vinedressers and give the vineyard to others." And when they heard it they said, "Certainly not!"

17 Then He looked at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

'The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone'?

18 "Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

19 And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people--for they knew that He had spoken this parable against them. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Illustration of this generation's leaders relating to the Kingdom of Heaven [Matthew 21:33-36, Mark 12:1-12, Luke 20:9-18]

- ✚ The Kingdom of God is like a land owner who leased out his vineyard to vinedressers and went to a far country.
- ✧ The **land owner** is **God**.
- ✧ The **vineyard** is the **Kingdom of God**.
- ✧ The **vinedressers** are the **religious leaders of Israel**, Priests, Levites, and Elders who were joined by the Scribes, Lawyers, Pharisees, to whom the message of the Kingdom was first entrusted.
- ✧ The **Far Country** is **Heaven** where God is waiting until the Day of Judgment.
- ✧ The **Time Delay** is the time **God is waiting** for all to come to **repentance**. [Peter 3:9, Luke 20:9]
- ✧ The **Vintage Time** is the time each individual will give **account to God** for what he did with the invitation into the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✧ The **servants sent** to the vinedressers for the vintage were the **prophets and men of God** who were sent to the leaders of Israel throughout the history of Israel with the Words of God and the message of the Kingdom.

- ✧ The **religious leaders of Israel** are the ones responsible for the persecution and death of all the **prophets** God sent to them to call them to repentance so they could live.
- ✧ At last God sent **His Son Jesus**, with all the evidence, fulfilling all that the Law, prophets, and Psalms declared of the Messiah, God had spoken from Heaven in the hearing of the people with His Own testimony, saying, “**This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased.**”
[Matthew 3:17, 17:5, Mark 1:11, 9:7, Luke 3:22, 9:35, 2 Peter 1:17, Luke 20:13]
 - ✧ When they saw the Son, they killed Him with the intent to seize the Kingdom by force.
[Matthew 21:38-39, Mark 12:7-8, Matthew 11:12, Luke 20:14-15]
- ✧ Jesus then asked them to judge themselves:
 - ✧ "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"
[Matthew 21:40]
- ✧ Their reply was prophetic:
 - ✧ "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." [Matthew 21:41, Mark 12:9, Luke 20:16]
 - ✧ This was a prophetic utterance, and spoke of the time when the religious leaders of Israel would be removed from their exalted office and replaced by the Church which was to be entrusted with the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - ✧ However at the time of its utterance, they did not know the significance of their words.
- ✧ Jesus made the application to Scripture, and said to them:
 - ✧ "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the LORD's doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes?" [Psalm 118:22-23, Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17]

- ✧ Jesus then explained the application:
 - ✧ "Therefore I say to you, the **Kingdom of God** will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. [Matthew 21:43]
 - ✧ "Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." [Matthew 21:44, Luke 20:18]
 - ✧ Whoever stumbles over the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom will face judgment.
[Matthew 21:44, Luke 20:18]
 - ✧ The response to the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven will play a vital part on the day of Judgment.
- ✧ It is a serious thing to hear, or have access to, the Gospel of the Kingdom and to reject it.
[Matthew 10:5-15, 11:20-24, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 10:1-12, 13-16]
- ✧ This becomes one of the factors considered at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - ✧ When He will separate the ones to inherit the Kingdom, from those purged out and cast into punishment. [Matthew 7:13-23, 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50, 22:1-14, 24:45-51, 25:14-30, 31-46, Luke 12:35-48, 13:23-30, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10, 2 Timothy 4:1, Jude 1:14-15]
 - ✧ This agrees with the prophecies of the Old Testament. [Malachi 3:1-5, 18, 4:1, Isaiah 1:24-31, 29:20-21, 33:14, 59:1-21, 66:14b-16, Ezekiel 20:33-38, Daniel 7:26, Joel 3:12-14, Zechariah 12:1-14]
- ✧ Jesus had previously said, "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the sons of the Kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
[Matthew 8:11-13]

- ‡ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the Kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last." [\[Luke 13:28-30\]](#)

- ‡ The Pharisees, Chief Priests, Scribes, and Elders realized Jesus was talking about them, and they sought a way to lay their hands on Him, but could do nothing at this time, they feared the multitudes, because the people took Jesus for a prophet. [\[Matthew 21:45-46, Mark 12:12, Luke 20:19\]](#)
 - ✧ Their hearts were inclined to kill Jesus, just as Jesus had predicted.
 - ✧ In the end, they fulfilled His words to the letter.
 - ✧ From the cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." [\[Luke 23:34\]](#)