

## Matthew 21:33-46 **Illustration of the Land Owner – and the Kingdom of God**

<sup>33</sup> "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. <sup>34</sup> Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. <sup>35</sup> And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. <sup>37</sup> Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>38</sup> "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup> "So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup> Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" <sup>41</sup> They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." <sup>42</sup> Jesus 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'?

<sup>43</sup> "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. <sup>44</sup> And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." <sup>45</sup> Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. <sup>46</sup> But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

**Illustration of this generation's leaders relating to the Kingdom of Heaven** [Matthew 21:33-36, Mark 12:1-12, Luke 20:9-19]

- ✚ 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](#)]