

Learning More with
Stories of the Master

Web – www.StoriesoftheMaster.com email – Stories@storiesoftheMaster.com

~ **The Vineyard, The Son, and the Stone** ~

You can learn much more about this story by doing these three things:

1. Read Matthew 21:33-46.
2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.
3. Answer the reflective questions.

1. Read the text of the story.

New American Standard Bible (NASB) Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by [The Lockman Foundation](http://www.Lockman.org)
New Living Translation (NLT) Holy Bible. New Living Translation copyright© 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Matthew 21:33-46 NASB	Matthew 21:33-46 NLT
<p>³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey.³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce.³⁵ The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. ³⁷ But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ ³⁹ They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?” ⁴¹ They *said to Him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the <i>proper</i> seasons.”</p> <p>⁴² Jesus *said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures,</p> <p>‘THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER <i>stone</i>; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES’?</p> <p>⁴³ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it. ⁴⁴ And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>³⁷ “Finally, the owner sent his son, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’</p> <p>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.</p> <p>⁴⁰ “When the owner of the vineyard returns,” Jesus asked, “what do you think he will do to those farmers?”</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>⁴² Then Jesus asked them, “Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures?</p> <p>‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’</p>

Learning More with
Stories of the Master

Web – www.StoriesoftheMaster.com email – Stories@storiesoftheMaster.com

<p>⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ When they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.</p>	<p>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.”</p> <p>⁴⁵ When the leading priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowds, who considered Jesus to be a prophet.</p>
--	---

2. Discover key cultural and historical insights

These insights are from Dr. Kenneth Bailey – Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

1. The Greek word for vine-growers is *georgos* which can mean farmer, tenant, or vinedresser. In the story, they are farmers and tenants and their job is to dress the vines of the owner’s vineyard.
2. Isaiah 5 had a similar parable. In that, God was the owner, the vineyard is Judah, the vinedressers the men of Judah. God expects the good grapes of justice and righteousness but instead receives cries of bloodshed and pain, and the vineyard must be destroyed.
3. In the Herodian period, the wealthy often lived some distances from their estates and farms. This is why in the story, the owner sends servants to check on the vineyard.
4. In such a situation, an owner has been shamed as well as the servants and it would be expected of him to send an armed force to deal with the rebels.
5. By sending the son, the owner is offering amnesty to the offenders. He is hoping to awaken within them a sense of honor and nobility that they have lost. He is hoping they will feel shame for their actions, forsake them, and reenter the good graces of the owner. Verse 37 literally says, “perhaps they will feel shame.”
6. They killed him outside the vineyard for if they did it inside the vineyard, the grapes would be defiled.
7. The Mishnah declared, “title by usucapion to houses, cisterns, trenches, vaults, dovecots, bathhouses, olive presses, irrigated fields, and slaves, and anything that brings gain is secured by occupation during three complete years. The men in the parable believed the vineyard would become theirs soon by killing the Son.

Learning More with
Stories of the Master

Web – www.StoriesoftheMaster.com email – Stories@storiesoftheMaster.com

Answer these reflective questions.

Jesus' story of the Vineyard and the Son was based upon the story of the Vineyard in Isaiah 5. What similarities and differences do you find in these stories?

Isaiah 5	Matthew 21

In the story, who did the servants represent? Read Hebrews 11:35-38. How were many of the prophets treated in the Old Testament?

The workers in the vineyard lost touch with their role as tenants and workers and wanted the vineyard for themselves. What does this represent in the lives of people today? Who should we view as the rightful owner of all things that we have?

Learning More with
Stories of the Master

Web – www.StoriesoftheMaster.com email – Stories@storiesoftheMaster.com

Read Psalm 14:1-4. What does this tell us about many people in the world and how they view ownership? Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What does this passage tell us about ownership?

Psalm 14:1-4	1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Who is the son in the story? How did this story become reality in the life of Jesus?

Read Psalm 118:22-23, Acts 4:8-12, Ephesians 2:20, and 1 Peter 2:7. If Jesus is the cornerstone of God's building program, is he the cornerstone of your life? Are you building everything in your life around him?
