

Read Mark 12:1-12

1 Then Jesus began teaching them with parables: “A man planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he rented the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country.

2 At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop. **3** But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed.

4 The owner then sent another servant, but they insulted him and beat him over the head. **5** The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed,

6 until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly. The owner finally sent him, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’

7 “But the tenant farmers said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ **8** So they grabbed him and murdered him and threw his body out of the vineyard.

9 “What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do?” Jesus asked. “I’ll tell you—he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others.

10 Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. **11** This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’”

12 The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the crowd, so they left him and went away.

Jesus is speaking in parables (v. 1). What is a parable? A real-life story with different characters that has a heavenly or spiritual meaning.

Who is the Man (the Owner) who planted a vineyard? God. **Vineyard in the Bible is a symbol for/represents the nation of Israel. So, God planted the vineyard of Israel. Who are the farmers He rented the vineyard to?** The Jewish religious leaders.

Who are the servants He sent to collect some of the fruit from the vineyard (v. 2)? The Old Testament prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah. **How did the farmers treat the first servant (first prophet) (v. 3)?** They beat him up and sent him away with no fruit.

How did the farmers treat the next servant (v. 4)? They hit him on the head and were very mean to him. **How did they treat all the other servants (v. 5)?** They killed some and beat the others up.

Who was the last One the Man/Owner sent (v. 6)? The Owner’s Son. The Owner thought the farmers would treat Him right. **Who was His Son?** Jesus **What did the farmers do (vv. 7-8)?** They killed the Son. **What were they thinking when they killed Him (v. 7)?** They thought they would inherit the vineyard if the Son was dead.

What did the Owner do to the farmers/tenants (v. 9)? He killed them and gave the vineyard away to other people.

Who is the Stone that the builders rejected (v. 10)? Jesus.

What did the Jewish religious leaders think about this parable/story (v. 12)? They hated it. They knew Jesus was telling a story about them and how their Jewish ancestors had killed many of the prophets and now they were getting ready to kill Jesus. They were afraid that the crowd was going to get mad at them so they left and went away.