

# The Vineyard of the Landowner

October 22, 2017 – Matthew 21:33-34; 38-41

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{Tuesday of Holy Week} – Also found in Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19

***“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner - Οικοδεσποτης - (Master Land Owner / House Owner) who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ....***

***But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, “This is the heir. Come, let’s kill Him and take His inheritance”. So they took Him and threw Him out of the vineyard and killed Him. Therefore, when the owner - Κυριου - (Lord) of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants? He will bring those wretches to a wretched end - Κακουσ Κακωσ απολεσει αυτουσ - (The evil ones, severely kill them), they replied, and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants who will give Him His share of the crop at harvest time.”***

In the Old Testament of the Bible God put a hedge or type of wall around His people. God hemmed them in to protect them. Many of the people instead of feeling protected by God felt restricted and controlled due to the hedge.

Many people resented God because of the hedge put around them. It was something that was given to protect His people from false religion and false beliefs, and to keep them separate from the rest of the nations.

The Hedge that God put around the Children of Israel was His Law which He gave to His People Israel after He delivered them from slavery in Egypt. Those Laws were the Civil Laws (Governmental), the Ceremonial Laws (Religious / Church Laws), and the Moral Law (Ten Commandments).

These Laws are a demonstration of God’s Love. God wants to keep His people safe and keep them in the One True Faith so that they would not fall away from Him, but remain faithful and ultimately spend eternity in heaven.

As New Testament Believers in Christ Jesus, we no longer are required to follow the Civil and Ceremonial Laws, yet the Moral Law, the 10 Commandments still apply to us. They are not God being cruel and controlling, but are given to protect us and show us our sin and our need for a Savior.

Have no other gods, Do not take God’s Name in Vain, Remember the Sabbath day, Honor Father and Mother, Do not Kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not Steal, Do not Bear False Witness, Do not Covet.

God’s Law is a demonstration of His Love. He actually cares enough for His people in the Old and New Testament that He gave His law.

In this parable we see the following:

**The Landowner / Lord** = God

**The Vineyard** = God’s People. God had chosen Israel. The Jewish Nation = His Chosen people.

They rejected (as a whole, yet some individuals remained faithful) and so God rented out His Vineyard to others – The Gentiles / us).

**The Servants** = God’s Prophets who faithfully proclaim the truth of God’s Word.

They are persecuted and some put to death. Think of the Apostle Paul – Jeremiah – Daniel in the Lion’s Den – Elijah – Samuel and others.

**The SON** = The Lord Jesus Christ Whom the Jewish leaders hated and plotted to kill Jesus.

As Jesus told this parable it is Tuesday of Holy Week. – Jesus was on His way to the Cross.

Jesus was soon to demonstrate the full extent of His Love for all mankind, including those Jewish leaders who thought that they had orchestrated the crucifixion of Jesus.

It was of course all according to God’s time. Christ’s Time.

Jesus secured that salvation for you when He went to the cross of Calvary and suffered our death and took our sin upon Himself. He suffered our hell, which we deserve.

His sacrifice was and is all sufficient, for us and we are forgiven by His blood and have heaven.

Thank God, He has made us part of His Vineyard by the Means of Grace, The Gospel in Word and Sacrament and through, in and because of Jesus Christ we have heaven. AMEN