

Reading Matthew in Lent

Gospel of Matthew 21: 33–46

The Parable of the Tenants

33 “Hear another parable.
There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard
and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it
and built a tower and leased it to tenants,
and went into another country.

34 When the season for fruit drew near,
he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.

35 And the tenants took his servants
and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first.
And they did the same to them.

37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying,
‘They will respect my son.’

38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves,
‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’

39 And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

41 They said to him,
“He will put those wretches to a miserable death
and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

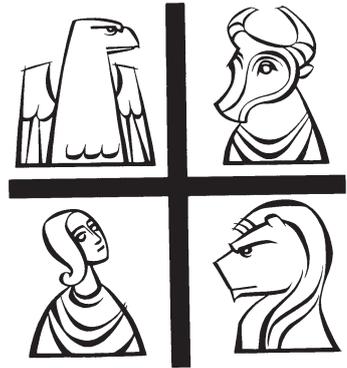
42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:
‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvellous in our eyes’?

43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people producing its fruits.

44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces;
and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables,
they perceived that he was speaking about them.

46 And although they were seeking to arrest him,
they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.



Prayer

Yours, O God, is the vineyard and its harvest,
yours the kingdom of justice and peace.

You call your people to tend its growth.
Bless the work entrusted to our hands,
that we may offer you
an abundance of just works,
a rich harvest of peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

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