

# Stewardship and Judgement

April 27, 2025 | *Matthew 21:33-46*



## THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS STEWARDSHIP AND JUDGMENT

### Observations from Matthew 21:33-46:

What is happening here?

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#### Understanding the Scene: The Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Symbolism):

**Vineyard** = The People of God (Israel): *Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:8-16*

**Fence** = God's Protection: *Isaiah 5:2*

**Winepress** = The Expectation of a Harvest; Bearing Fruit: *Isaiah 5:2; Psalm 104:15; Revelation 14:19-20*

**Tower** = God's Care and Provision for His People: *Isaiah 5:2; Proverbs 18:10*

**Tenants** = Israel's Religious Leaders: *Jeremiah 12:10*

**Servants** = Prophets Sent by God: *2 Chronicles 36:15-16*

**Son** = Jesus Christ, the Final Messenger and Heir: *Hebrews 1:1-2*

**Owner** = God the Father: *Matthew 21:37*

**New Tenants** = Those who Respond (Believers): *Matthew 21:43; 1 Peter 2:9*

#### Parabolic Outline:

- God built the vineyard with care - v33
- His people (the tenants) were called to steward it - v33-34
- They rejected His servants and His Son - v35-39
- The revelation of God's patience and justice - v40-44

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Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life"

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## **Lessons from Matthew 21:33-46:**

### **What can we learn (interpret) from this?**

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- **God Sends People, Even When We Reject Them**

- God is consistent in showing His mercy towards us. This mercy is greater than our rebellion, **but** rejection still leads to judgment.
  - **Reference Verse(s):** *2 Chronicles 36:15-16, Hebrews 1:1-2, Jeremiah 7:25-26, Matthew 23:37*

- **Rejecting the Son Leads to Judgment**

- God gives us time but not forever. Those who reject the Son miss out on salvation, being a new creation, transformation, and are left in darkness.
  - **Reference Verse(s):** *Matthew 21:38-39, John 3:36, Acts 4:11, Luke 20:18*

- **The Kingdom Is Given to Those Who Will Bear Fruit**

- Stewardship matters: God entrusts His Kingdom to those who produce the fruit of faithful living. Respond to God's invitation, grow and live it out!
  - **Reference Verse(s):** *Matthew 21:43, 1 Peter 2:9, John 15:5-8, Luke 13:6-9, Matthew 25:14-30*

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## **Application from Matthew 21:33-46:**

### **How can I apply / live this out?**

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- **Receive the Son. Don't Reject Him.**

- True faith means believing in the Lord for salvation and following in the footsteps of Christ.
  - **Reference Verse(s):** *Romans 10:9-10, James 2:19, Luke 6:46, John 1:12*

- **Let the Stone Establish and Shape Your Life**

- Jesus must become the foundation on which our entire lives are built. From that rock, we are to expand / build our lives in Him! (Ref: Daniel 2:31-45)
  - **Reference Verse(s):** *Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:1-8, Colossians 1:10, Matthew 7:16-20, 2 Peter 1:5-8*

- **Grow and Bear Fruit as Witness to Others**

- Faith saves us. Faith also transforms; it bears real fruit that others can see.
  - **Reference Verse(s):** *Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Matthew 7:24-27, Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22*

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