

May 20, 2018

Matthew 21:33-46

- The Parable of the Vineyard:
 - The landowner – God
 - The vineyard – Israel
 - The tenants / farmers – the Jewish religious leadership
 - The landowner's servants – the prophets who faithfully administered God's Word to Israel
 - The son – Jesus
 - The other tenants – the Gentiles

Isa 5:1-4 Let me sing for my Beloved [Matt. 3:17; 17:5] my love song concerning his vineyard: My Beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

- As God had done everything necessary for the protection of the vineyard so that it would produce the fruit for which it was planted, so also He has done everything necessary [2 Peter 1:3] for us to produce the fruit of His presence.

Rom. 7:4 Likewise, my brethren, you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God...

- Jesus, God's Beloved Son, died so we would bring forth fruit unto God.

- The dire result of Israel's deliberate failure to produce the fruit for which they had been constituted as God's national people:

Isa 5:5-7 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel...

- Jesus tells us the response of the tenants to the landowners attempts to collect the proceeds [fruit] of the vineyard: Some servants were beaten, some killed and others stoned [to death] (John 10:10).
- He announces their replacement in favor of another people, the gentiles.
- God had always chosen Israel to be his people by giving them his personal presence through the law and the sacrifices by which they were to live by faith.
- However, by the time Jesus, the leadership had corrupted God's grace by replacing it with their own ways, therefore rejecting and repudiating God's authoritative rule over them.
- Jesus predicts His own death at the hands of these leaders.
- Jesus has now presented the situation and asks for an evaluation from the priests. which echoes 2 Sam. 12:1-7.
- The tenants must pay and the vineyard be given to others. By saying "others" they were unwittingly confessing that God's promise in Gen.17:4 would be accomplished.

- Now that they have unwittingly confessed their own sin and its judgment about their rejection of Him as their Messiah, Jesus responds by telling them that they are fulfilling the prophecy of Ps.118:22–23.
- The rejected Stone will become the very Corner [Foundation] Stone of God's New [Covenant] House: Jer. 31:31.

***Eph 2:19-20** ...you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone...*

***Acts 4:11-12** This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

***Rom 9:30-33** What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

***1 Peter 2:4-5** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."*

- Jesus, the Rock, is not only the Foundation of the church, He has always been the Rock of God's provision to His people.

***Ex 17:6** Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink...*

1 Cor 10:4 *For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ..*

Ex 33:21-23 *...you shall stand on the rock, 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall..*

Ps 95:1 *Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*