

**THE PARABLES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS**  
(Matthew 21: 33-45; Mark 12: 1-12; Luke 20: 9-19)

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**Major Point of the Parable:** Those who disrespect the blessings, privileges and opportunities provided, and those who take advantage of the patience and mercy of God receive the judgment of God.

**Other Views of the Parable:**

The Historic View---

- This parable is directed toward the people of Israel and their leadership who were called into special covenant relationship with God through the faith of their ancestor Abraham.
- The purpose of the covenant and election carries with it the responsibility of representing God to unsaved people, because God desires all of the creation to be saved by our living examples, our proclamation and our teaching.
- When the covenant people of Israel strayed from their purpose God sent corrective prophets whom they persecuted. Isaiah was sawn asunder. Jeremiah was stoned. Amos was murdered with a club.
- Jesus as the Son of God was God's highest revelation to them, and he would receive the same cruel treatment at their hands like the prophets before him (Matthew 23: 37-39; Luke 13: 31-35)

What would be the result of the rejection of the Lord Jesus?

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The Church View---

- The Church in many respects is the new Israel in terms of privilege, election, responsibility and opportunity.
- Too often the church has treated its reformers as Israel treated the prophets.
- We must pray for discernment and openness to recognize God's voices among us even when they are as different for us as Jesus was to the religious leadership of his day.

We must never forget that we also are accountable that we must give an account of our stewardship because **those who disrespect the blessings, privileges and opportunities provided, and those who take advantage of the patience and mercy of God receive the judgment of God.**

The Stewardship View---

- Those who were in charge of the vineyard were not owners but managers. Foundation of all claims of God upon us is the assertion that God is owner and we are managers.

- Parable teaches about human privilege: God has entrusted everything God has created to our management, our use, our pleasure, and our provision.
- Parable teaches us about human responsibility: We are charged with managing well that which God has entrusted to us.
- Parable teaches us about human freedom: God does not micro-manage us as we manage the creation. God respects our human will.
- Parable teaches us about the reality of human sin and selfishness: We misuse our responsibility by not managing well what God has given us. We deliberately refuse to give what is the owner's due.
- Parable teaches us about the extent of human sin and selfishness: We fail to heed God's highest and greatest revelation who has come to lead us back into right relationship with the owner (John 3: 16)

Parable teaches us about human accountability: What is the destiny of those who persist when God has done all God can short of disrespecting human freed and will? **Those who disrespect the blessings, privileges and opportunities provided, and those who take advantage of the patience and mercy of God receive the judgment of God.**

View of God---

- Parable teaches the faith of God in us. By the fact that God turns the creation over to us is indication of God's faith in us.
- Parable teaches the love of God for us. Everything we need plus pleasure and beauty galore has already been provided.
- Parable teaches God's faith in God's own integrity. God can trust us so much because God knows the potential and greatness God has placed in us. God does not produce shoddy work. Shoddiness reflects our choices rather than the greatness of God's creation.
- Parable teaches the patience of God. God continues to give us more chances than we deserve.

Parable teaches the judgment of God (Psalm 103: 8-9).

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View of Jesus---

- Parable teaches us about the claim of Jesus. He is the only begotten of the Father.
- Parable teaches us about the claim of Jesus. He died on Calvary.
- Parable teaches us about the victory of Jesus. He is the rejected stone who has become the head of the corner.
- Parable teaches us about the second coming of Jesus. He came first as Savior and Lord. He reigns now as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

However, when he comes again, he will come as Judge of Judges and **those who disrespect the blessings, privileges and opportunities provided, and those who take advantage of the patience and mercy of God receive the judgment of God.**

