

Matthew 21:33-46

Murder in the Vineyard

Murder ...

I. A Man Had a Vineyard

A. Privileged Tenants

B. Murderous Scoundrels

II. God Sent His Son

A. The Lord's Estate

B. Self-Condemed Wretches

C. Glorious Cornerstone

D. Severe Consequences

E. Guaranteed Produce

III. Jesus' Vinedressers

A. Faithful Laborers

B. Producing Fruit

C. For the King

... but no mystery.

Children, Listen ...

1. How did the tenants treat the master's servants?
2. What did they do to the master's son?
3. In Jesu's parable who is the master supposed to be?
4. Who is the master's son supposed to be?

The King's Vineyard

Jesus tells this shocking parable just days before He is executed at the insistence of the Jewish leaders and at the hands the Roman government. His words are very obviously directed to the corrupted leadership of Israel who historically rejected God's messengers. The message is even more pointed toward the leaders Jesus is immediately addressing. Not only are they negligent and corrupt when it comes to tending vineyard of God's church, they are about to orchestrate the murder of the Master's Son, Jesus. This will lead to their own demise. But this is by no means the end of the fruit bearing vineyard of God's Kingdom. The old corrupted and faithless leadership will be replaced by good and faithful vinedressers laboring under Jesus Christ. This Jesus, was delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, and was crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. (Acts 2:23-24) The Son lives! His Kingdom is forever and His vineyard on earth will flourish until the harvest is complete. May we be found among the good and faithful servants that labor diligently for our King.