



# Daily Reflections

**October 8, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 21: 33-43**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

"Hear another parable.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,  
put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower.

Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.

When vintage time drew near,

he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.

But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat,  
another they killed, and a third they stoned.

Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones,  
but they treated them in the same way.

Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking,

'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another,

'This is the heir.

Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'

They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"

They answered him,

"He will put those wretched men to a wretched death  
and lease his vineyard to other tenants

who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
by the Lord has this been done,  
and it is wonderful in our eyes?  
Therefore, I say to you,  
the kingdom of God will be taken away from you  
and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Today's Gospel passage has been called, "Salvation History in Capsulized Form." Why? Because using several verses, Matthew gives us a condensed description of God's plan for our eternal salvation. In his message, Matthew shows us how God (the landowner) has called workers to steward His vineyard (Kingdom). Those who were entrusted to do God's work failed miserably. Worse of all, due to envy and jealousy they killed the landowner's only Son ( Jesus). Because of their bad stewardship resulting in an act of murder, the vineyard was taken away from them and entrusted to other people (disciples of Jesus) to produce a good harvest. The bottom line: Because of our relationship to Jesus we have been entrusted to be stewards in God's Kingdom. While this is a tremendous honor, we must never forget that God expects us to produce good fruit and we will be held accountable for our time in His vineyard.

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## **Food for your Journey**

"Jesus acted as a master trainer," says Greg Ogden in Transforming Discipleship. "His life destiny was the cross. He was the man born to die. Yet converging on that moment would be the necessity of having his disciples prepared to carry on his mission after his resurrection and return to the Father. To get the disciples ready, Jesus played a series of important roles, commensurate with the disciples' preparedness."

At stage one, early in his ministry, Jesus was a living example. "The disciples watched him carefully and therefore began to absorb his message and his ministry."

At stage two, Jesus was a provocative educator. "Jesus' intent was not only to inform the disciples of a new kingdom perspective but also to dislodge the

wrong-headed ideas and assumptions that they had picked up from a religious and secular world in rebellion against God.”

At stage three, Jesus was a supportive coach. “The disciples were sent on a short-term mission within Jesus’ clear parameters, knowing that he was there for a supportive debriefing upon their return.”

At stage four, Jesus was the ultimate delegator. “The disciples had internalized enough to survive their scattering at Jesus’ crucifixion, to be regrouped after the resurrection and empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. His ministry had become theirs.”

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Precious Lord, You have called me and given me many gifts so that I may do Your work in this life. I pray for wisdom, compassion and love to help me with my efforts. May I produce a harvest that is pleasing to You. Amen.