

## Parable of the vineyard tenants in synoptic comparison

[elements unique to each gospel in BOLD; elements shared by Mk/Mt but not Luke UNDERLINED]

### MARK 12.1-12

Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat **over the head** and insulted. Then he sent another, and **that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed.** He had still one other, a beloved son. **Finally he sent him to them, saying**, 'They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance **will be** ours.' So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you **not** read this scripture: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to *arrest* him, but they feared the *crowd*. **So they left him and went away.**

### MATTHEW 21.33-46

"**Listen to another** parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the **harvest time** had come, he sent his **slaves** to the tenants to collect **his** produce. But the tenants seized **his slaves** and **beat one, killed another, and stoned another**. Again he sent **other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way**. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do **to those tenants**?" They said to him, "**He will put those wretches to a miserable death**, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you **never** read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? **Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one** who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and **the Pharisees** heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking **about** them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, **because they regarded him as a prophet.**

### LUKE 20.9-19

**He began to tell the people this** parable: "A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country **for a long time**. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants in order that they might give him his share of the produce of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Next he sent another slave; that one also they beat and insulted and **sent away empty-handed**. And he sent still **a third**; this one also **they wounded and threw out. Then the lord of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.'** But when the tenants saw him, **they discussed it among themselves and said**, 'This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance **may be** ours.' So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do **to them**? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." **When they heard this, they said, "Heaven forbid!" But he looked at them and said, "What then does this text mean:** 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? **Everyone** who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When **the scribes** and chief priests realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted **to lay hands on** him at that very hour, but they feared the **people**.