

Theme: The rejection of the beloved Son by the tenants of the “vineyard” would result in his death, but not in his defeat. The consequences of that rejection proved dreadful for Israel, and will be equally dreadful for all those on whom his judgment falls. But “others”, who receive the Son in joy, inherit the vineyard with all its fruit.

Background: Jesus is still addressing the question, “...who gave you this authority?”

Introduction: A Parable with a punch

I. A Dark Past (9-12)

A. The vineyard –

1. God’s covenant community (Psalm 80:8-19; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 2:21; Ezekiel 15:1-6; Hosea 10:1)
2. They didn’t plant it

B. The tenants

1. Primarily the rulers in Israel
 - Secondly – those who followed them
2. Rented! Not owned.
 - Alone for a long time
3. Unfaithful, ungrateful stewards (Ezekiel 34)

C. The servants (vs.10-12)

1. Patient – sent many servants!
2. They are all abused
 - Jeremiah 7:25,26; 2 Chronicles 36:16
 - 1 Kings 18:4; 22:27; 2 Chronicles 16:10; 24:21
3. The “tenants” acted like “owners”

II. Their Present Danger (13-16a)

A. Destroy the Son?

1. Send my beloved son!
 - a. Pointing to the Only Son
 - Matthew 3:17; Luke 3:22
 - b. Where does Jesus’ authority come from??
2. The tenants faulty reasoning! (14)
 - a. Kill the heir – and we get the vineyard!
 - b. Not a new plan (Luke 9:22)

B. Losing the vineyard

1. The tenants will be removed/destroyed
2. A “foreign people” will inherit it

C. “May this never be!”

III. The Coming Destruction (16b-18)

A. Temporal consequences

1. Rejecting the Messiah (Psalm 118:22)
 - Long understood as *Messianic*
 - Jesus applies it to himself
2. Death of the faithless, wicked tenants!

B. Eternal consequences v.18

1. Falling on that stone?
 - Isaiah 8:14
2. The stone that falls on them?
 - Daniel 2:34,35

IV. Conclusion: Our Present Danger & Hope

A. This is not ancient history; it happens every day of every year!

- We all have a “dark” past
- We must all take a stand for or against Jesus in the present
- We all face a future with him or against him
- Don’t let that rock of salvation fall on you. Build your life upon it!

B. Living with Christ in the Present

1. God’s plan was not thwarted by the rejection, death of Jesus.
2. Living with the Son, Savior in the present
 - a. Surrendered to his authority
 - Luke 5:24; John 1:12,13
 - b. Serving under his authority!
 - *All authority is His* (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - That power is ours – in Him