

A Vineyard Venture Ending in Multiple Murders  
Matthew 21:33-46

April 26 -

Jesus refuses to reveal himself to liars.

April 26 -

Jesus refuses to reveal himself to liars.

May 3 -

Jesus reveals to liars truth about themselves.

May 10 -

A vineyard venture ending in multiple murders

Invitation - “**Hear another parable.**”

Story - A vineyard venture ending in multiple murders

Special Guest Stars #1 - **Asaph** and **Isaiah**

“There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower . . .” (33)

“You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.”

Psalm 80:8-9

“Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

“He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;”

Isaiah 5:1-2a

“For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting.”

Isaiah 5:7a

# Mundane Scenario

Mundane Scenario  
Insane Plot Twists

Plot Twist #1

Servants **treated with violence** and  
murdered . . . twice.

Special Guest Stars #2 -  
History writers of Kings and Chronicles,  
**Jeremiah** and **Nehemiah**

“The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.

“But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets.”

2 Chronicles 36:15-16a

“For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword,

“and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”

1 Kings 19:10b and 14b

“Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them,

“Thus says God, “Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.””

“But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD.”

2 Chronicles 24:20-21

“There was another man who prophesied in the name of the LORD, Uriah the son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim.

“He prophesied against this city and against this land in words like those of Jeremiah.

“And when King Jehoiakim, with all his warriors and all the officials, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death.

“But when Uriah heard of it, he was afraid and fled and escaped to Egypt.

“Then King Jehoiakim sent to Egypt certain men, Elnathan the son of Achbor and others with him, and they took Uriah from Egypt and brought him to King Jehoiakim,

“who struck him down with the sword and dumped his dead body into the burial place of the common people.”

Jeremiah 26:20-23

“Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets,

“who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies.”

Nehemiah 9:26

Plot Twist #2

The businessman **sends his son.**

## Plot Twist #2

The businessman **sends his son.**

“Finally he sent his son to them, saying,  
‘They will respect my son.’” (37)

Plot Twist #3

The tenants **kill the son.**

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The tenants **kill the son.**

“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’”

Plot Twist #3

The tenants kill the son.

“And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.” (38-39)

Question - What is the master going to do?

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“When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” (40)

Response

“They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.’” (41)

Accuracy without **humility**.

Accuracy without **humility**.

External response without **internal recognition**.

Accuracy without **humility**.

External response without **internal recognition**.

They were legally **accurate** while personally **ignorant**.

“There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor.

“The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought.

“And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.

“Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him,

“but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

“Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, ‘As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die,

“and he shall restore the lamb fourfold,  
because he did this thing, and because he  
had no pity.”

2 Samuel 12:1-6

“Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man!’”

2 Samuel 12:7a

“Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight?”

“You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword . . .”

2 Samuel 12:9a

“David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’”

2 Samuel 12:13a

Application - Jesus reveals to liars the **consequences of their rejection.**

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“Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures:

Application - Jesus reveals to liars the **consequences of their rejection.**

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes”?” (42)

1. Jesus is quoting from Psalm 118:22-23  
(same as “Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.”).

2. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all mention this passage.

3. The stone metaphor is also mentioned in Isaiah, Daniel, Acts, Ephesians, and 1 Peter.

What is the stone?

Literally - most important component in  
**construction**

Old Testament – the king, Israel, promised  
future **firm kingdom.**

New Testament - Jesus is the **fulfillment** and **foundation** of God's kingdom.

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.” (43)

“And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” (44)

# Implications for rejecting Jesus

Implications for rejecting Jesus

**lose the kingdom**

Implications for rejecting Jesus

**lose the kingdom**

**healed or crushed**

"Fall on it [the stone, Jesus] - and there is a touch of mercy even here - and you will be broken, but the broken man can be healed.

"But let it fall on you, and you will be ground to dust, and there is no healing then."

Leon Morris

Epilogue - the perceptiveness and **fear** of the religious leaders

“When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

“And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.” (45-46)

Response

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**Recognize the Son.**

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**Recognize the Son.**

Remember that **God sent his Son.**

“It might be argued that at this point the story goes way beyond the boundaries of reason,

“that in the ordinary course of life no proprietor whose rights had been so rudely trampled upon would have been generous enough to give the criminals still another chance,

“and certainly that he would not have delivered over his own dear son to the whims and wiles of those who had bludgeoned his servants.

“This must be granted. But then, it should be borne in mind that this is a parable.

“Moreover . . . it is a parable depicting sin most unreasonable and love incomprehensible!

“Considered in this light, the story is one of the most beautiful and touching ever told.”

William Hendriksen

“Jesus is telling a story that would illustrate the way a compassionate and loving God acts toward sinners,

“not the way a businessman would act to protect his investment.”

Leon Morris

Response

**Recognize the Son.**

Remember that **God sent his Son.**

**Respond to the Son.**

“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish  
in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

Psalm 2:12