

Week 26
March 15, 2009

The Parable of the Tenants
Matthew 21:33-46

What the landowner does

1. He plants a vineyard
2. He puts a wall around it
3. He digs a winepress
4. He builds a watchtower
5. He rents the vineyard to farmers
6. He goes on a journey
7. At harvest, he sends servants to collect his fruit

What the tenants do

1. They seize and beat or kill the servants who come to collect
2. They do the same with others

What the landowner does

What the tenants do

1. Kill the heir
2. Take his inheritance

Jesus asks a question

“What will the landowner do?”

The religious leaders answer

“He will deal with those wretched tenants and replace them.”

Jesus gives a chilling prediction

1. The “stone that the builders rejected” (Psalm 118:22, 23)
2. The kingdom given over to those who bear fruit
3. Those who fall on the stone are broken

4. Those on whom the stone falls are crushed

The reaction of the religious leaders

1. They see themselves in the story
2. They look for a way to arrest Jesus
3. They are afraid of the crowd

Does this parable speak to our day?

1. God has planted a vineyard
2. He's built a wall around it
3. He's dug a winepress
4. He's built a watchtower
5. He's put new tenants in charge of the vineyard
6. He's gone on a journey
7. He wants fruit to be born
8. He asks us to honor "the stone" or "the heir"
9. It's our turn to be religious leaders
10. Will we do the will of the landowner?