

Matthew 21:33–46

18th Sunday after Pentecost — Proper 22, Year A

NRSVue	NIV	NET	NASB	CEB	The Message
33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a wine press in it and built a watchtower and leased it to tenants and went to another country. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants took his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 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." 42 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 marvelous in our eyes'? 43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.	33 "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. 35 "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. 38 "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 "He will bring them to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and anyone on whom it falls will be crushed." 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. 46 They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.	33 "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a pit for its winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and went on a journey. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his portion of the crop. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves, beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them the same way. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and get his inheritance!' 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?" 41 They said to him, "He will utterly destroy those evil men! Then he will lease the vineyard to other tenant farmers who will give him his portion at the harvest." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 For this reason I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be smashed to pieces, and the one on whom it falls will be crushed." 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowds, because the crowds considered him to be a prophet.	33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. 34 And when the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. 35 The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they did the same thing to them. 37 Now after that he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let's kill him and take possession of his inheritance!' 39 And they took him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" 41 They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and he will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the harvest times." 42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected, this became the chief corner stone; this came about from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and given to a nation producing the fruit of it. 44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but the one on whom it falls will be crushed." 45 And when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. 46 And when they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.	33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it to tenant farmers and took a trip. 34 When it was time for harvest, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers to collect his fruit. 35 But the tenant farmers grabbed his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first time, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come on, let's kill him and steal his inheritance.' 39 They grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 "When the landowner returns, what will he do to those tenant farmers?" 41 They said, "He will totally destroy those wicked farmers and rent the vineyard to others, who will give him his share at the right time." 42 Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the scriptures, The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it's amazing in our eyes? 43 Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and will be given to a people who produce its fruit. 44 Whoever falls on this stone will be crushed, and it will crush the person it falls on." 45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard his parables, they knew he was talking about them. 46 They were trying to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because the crowds thought he was a prophet.	33-37 "Here's another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, built a lookout tower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants to collect his profits. The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They handled them the same way. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to risk his own son: 'Surely they will respect my son.' 38-41 "But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. 'This is the heir! Let's kill him and have it all for ourselves.' They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him. "Now, what do you think? When the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?" They said, "He'll kill the abusive farmhands and lease the vineyard to farmhands who will honor the contract." 42-44 Jesus said, "Do you remember the Scripture that says, 'The stone the masons threw out is now the cornerstone'? Alert people see God in action, deep and wide, in the stone that gets rejected! I'm telling you, this is the way it is with you. God's kingdom will be taken away from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone will get hurt; whoever the Stone falls on will be crushed." 45-46 When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them. They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in his place, but, intimidated by public opinion, they held back. Most people held him to be a prophet of God.