

PARABLE OF THE EVIL VINE-GROWERS

Three days prior to His Passover crucifixion, Jesus Christ taught a series of parables in the Temple discourse (Matt.21:23-23:39).

They were given in response to the apostate religious leaders challenging Jesus' second cleansing of the temple.

“Jesus entered the temple courts and while He was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him. ‘By what authority are you doing these things?’ They asked. ‘And who gave you this authority.’” (Matt.21: 23)

The obvious lesson in the parables taught in the Temple Discourse was that the apostate Jewish leaders had failed as custodians of God's word and gospel evangelism.

Mark and Luke record only one of three parables taught in the Temple Discourse – “The Parable of the Evil Vine-grower.”

This parable is unique because it is a parable with an allegorical form. This means that you must pay attention to the characters and settings as well as the spiritual point of the parable.

This lesson will study 11 points regarding the PARABLE OF THE EVIL VINE-GROWERS. We will study the allegorical form as well as the spiritual point of this parable.

1. There are seven aspects of the allegorical form of this parable.

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| • The vineyard owner | God, The Father |
| • Vineyard | Kingdom of God on earth |
| • Vine-growers | Divine Agency of the Jewish age – Priest-nation of Israel (Isa.5) |
| • Owner's servants | Old Covenant prophets |
| • Fruit of vineyard | Divine Production |
| • Beloved son of owner | Jesus Christ |
| • New vine-grower | Divine Agency of Church age – Church |

2. In this parable, Jesus revealed that God protects His vineyard and fruit (12:1)

3. In this parable, Jesus revealed that the divine agency of each dispensation is the tenant of God's vineyard and fruit by divine appointment (12:2).

4. In this parable, Jesus revealed that every dispensation has a divine agency that is responsible for custodianship of God's word and work (12:2-5).

5. In this parable, Jesus revealed that Israel's history, as the divine agency was one of rejecting the messianic prophets sent to her (12:2-5).

6. **In this parable, Jesus revealed Himself as the Beloved Son of God sent as the LAST representative of God to the priest-nation (12:6).**
7. **In this parable, Jesus revealed to His disciples and the multitude that the apostate religious leaders would killed Him in hopes of getting His spiritual inheritance (12:7-8).**

At this point in the parable, Jesus stopped and asked His audience a question – “What will the owner of the vineyard do?” Their answer – “He will come and destroy the vine-growers, and will give the vineyard to others.” (12:9)

8. **In this parable, Jesus revealed the apostate’s religious leaders true motivation for killing Him as the Beloved Son of God (12:7-8).**
9. **In this parable, Jesus revealed that the present vine-growers would be removed by the 5th cycle of divine discipline for killing God’s Beloved Son (12:9).**
10. **In this parable, Jesus revealed that the vineyard would be given to another vine-grower (12:9; Matt.21:43/ read)**

At this point Jesus stopped and introduced a messianic Scripture (Psa.118: 22-23; Acts 4:10-12; 1 Pet.2: 4-8) because it will be necessary for His next point in the parable.

“Have you never read this Scripture: ‘The stone which the builders rejected, this became the corner stone; this came about from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?” (12:10-11)

11. **The messianic Scripture in this parable later reveals that the new vine-grower was the Church (Acts 4:10-12; Eph.2: 20-22; 1 Pet.2: 4-8).**

Did the apostate religious leaders get the spiritual point of the Parable of the Evil Vine-growers?

“And they were seeking to seize Him; and yet they feared the multitude; for they **understood** that He spoke the parable against them. And so they left Him, and went away.” (12:12) (Matt.21: 45)

THIS PARABLE WAS A GREAT HISTORICAL SNAP-SHOT OF THE PRIEST-NATION OF ISRAEL’S FAILURE AS THE CUSTODIAN OF GOD’S WORD AND WORK OF EVANGELISM.

It is important to learn from their mistake, since the Church is the present day custodian.