

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 223: PARABLE OF THE EVIL VINEDRESSERS
MATTHEW 21:33-46

"Listen to this story: There was a man who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around the field and dug a hole for a winepress. Then he built a tower. He leased the land to some farmers and then left on a trip. Later, it was time for the grapes to be picked. So the man sent his servants to the vinedressers, which means farmers, to get his share of the grapes. "But the farmers grabbed the servants and beat one. They killed another one and then stoned to death a third servant. So the man sent some other servants to the farmers. He sent more servants than he sent the first time. But the farmers did the same thing to them that they did the first time. So the man decided to send his son to the farmers. He said, 'The farmers will respect my son.' "But when the farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the owner's son. Let's kill him, and let's get his inheritance for ourselves.' So the farmers took the son, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. "So what will the owner of the vineyard do to these farmers when he comes?" The Jewish priests and leaders said, "He will surely kill those evil men. Then he will lease the land to other farmers, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Didn't you read this in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders refused to accept became the cornerstone. The Lord did this, and it is wonderful to us.'?" "So I tell you that God's kingdom will be taken away from you and given to a people that will bring out its fruits. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken. And it will crush to powder anyone it falls on." When the leading priests and the Pharisees heard these stories, they knew that Jesus was talking about them. They wanted to find a way to capture Jesus, but they were afraid to do anything, because the people believed that Jesus was a prophet.

223. PARABLE OF THE EVIL VINEDRESSERS

MATTHEW 21:33-46



"But last of all he sent his son to them saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the farmers saw the son they said to each other, 'This is the owner's son. Let's kill him and let's get his inheritance for ourselves.'" **MATTHEW 21:37-38**

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MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you." **MATTHEW 21:43**

Review Questions

True or False

1. There was a man who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it and dug a hole for a winepress.
2. When it was close to harvest time he sent his wife to the farmers so that he could get his share of the grapes.
3. The farmers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another one.
4. The land owner sent more servants than before, and they did something different to those servants.
5. Then last of all, he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son."

Questions

1. What happened when the land owner sent his first servants to the farmers?
2. Who did the land owner send the second time to the farmers?
3. Who did the land owner send last of all to the farmers?
4. What did the evil farmers do to the man's son?
5. When Jesus asked the Pharisees and Jewish leaders what they thought would happen to those evil farmers, what did they say?
6. What did Jesus tell the Pharisees and Jewish leaders would happen to them and the kingdom of God?

Lesson 223 Activity

Task Course

Set up a series of tasks that must be done by volunteers in your class. They can be things like closing a cabinet door, putting away pencils, cleaning a spill, putting a lid on a jar, etc. Let the volunteers perform the tasks to your specifications while you are blindfolded. When they are done, take off your blindfold and examine their work.

Reward the volunteers that have performed perfectly with a small prize from the prize jar (pencil, sticker, etc.)

Explain to your class that those children who performed perfectly were faithful to your instructions even when you could not see what they were doing. Remind your class that **God rewards His faithful servants**. We must be faithful to do what God tells us to do in His Word!

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be faithful to God's call on our lives.

If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.