



# The Kingdom Coming

## Kingdom Loyalties

Sunday, Oct 29/23 --- Matthew 21:33-46

<sup>33</sup> “Hear another parable. 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 and leased it to tenants, and went into another country.

*Cf. Mark 12:1-12 (for //); Isa 5:1-7 (Song of the Vineyard); Lev 19:23-25 (Loved Vineyard)*

<sup>34</sup> When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.

<sup>35</sup> And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

<sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.

<sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

<sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves,

‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’

<sup>39</sup> And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

*Cf. Isa 5:7; Jer 35:15; Matt 23:37; Heb 11:37*

<sup>40</sup> When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

<sup>41</sup> 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.”

<sup>42</sup> 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’?

*Cf. Ps 118:22-23; Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:7; Eph 2:20*

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.

<sup>44</sup>And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

**Romans 11:25**

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

In Ezekiel 37 God made three promises that summarized His future plans for Israel:

1) **restoration**, Ez. 37:21; 2) **unification**, Ez. 37:22; and 3) **purification**, Ez. 37:23.

These promises bring to fulfillment:

- 1) the **Abrahamic** Covenant (cf. Ge 12);
- 2) the **Davidic** Covenant (2Sa 7); and
- 3) the **New** Covenant (cf. Jer 31), respectively.

The New Testament reveals that this shepherd-king is Jesus (Ez 34:2-10, 23 and notes), who reigns over the renewed people of God forever (Ez 37:25; 34:31; John 10:11, 14; Matt. 2:2; Acts 5:31).

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

<sup>46</sup>And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

**Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

<sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Discussion Questions:

**How do each of these hurt:** *being told an uncomfortable truth, and being told a lie?*

**What does your loyalty look like as a vineyard keeper?**

*How are you enjoying and using the privileges God has given you?*

How are you, along with your co-workers, preparing to give God His fruit?

**In what ways are people rejecting truth today to believe what they want to believe?**

*How are you preparing your mind and heart to respond to them in truth and love?*

What truths are you having a hard time receiving and responding to properly?