



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – September 27, 2026

To Know Christ...

You worked in this vineyard all your life; the owner's son is now coming to replace you. This is happening because you lack diligence and integrity. The landowner plans, but you like power and control. What do you do?

On Monday, four days before Jesus' crucifixion, He shared a vineyard parable with the chief priests and Pharisees. (Matthew 21:33-46) Jesus quotes this vineyard narrative as if it were lifted right from the scroll of Isaiah the Prophet. (5:1-7) Isaiah wrote about God's Beloved Vineyard, speaking of Jerusalem, Judah, and the house of Israel as the Vineyard. God gave them everything they could ever possibly need. He removed all the stones from the ground. He built a wall to protect the vineyard. A tower was erected (think of a guard tower) to overlook the whole. The choicest vine was planted in the most fertile of soil, and a wine vat was hewed out to produce the best possible outcome. And all it produced was worthless grapes and a repulsive outcome. What did God do? He removed His protection! He tore down the wall and charged the clouds to stop the rain! In turn, it grew briars and thorns. It would no longer be pruned or hoed. When the Lord provides everything we need, is He not righteous to expect good fruit from our lives? Or do we lack diligence, faith, and integrity too? (Have you lost God's protection in your life for the same reason?) The Lord promised, **"I will lay it waste."** (Isaiah 5:6) And He kept His promise! They were carried away into captivity.

The chief priests and Pharisees knew Jesus was speaking about them. They had rejected John the Baptist. (Luke 7:30) They had rejected God's Word through prophets. And now they were seeking to seize the very heir of the landowner, Jesus, the Son of God, to destroy Him violently. (And they would in four more days, they thought ... but Sunday is on the Way!) Jesus said that His Father would, **"... Bring those wretches to a wretched end."** (Matthew 21:41) He quoted Psalm 118:22, concerning THE STONE [Jesus] which the builders [chief priests & Pharisees] rejected, that would become the **CHIEF CORNER STONE**. The kingdom of God would be **"... Taken away from them and given to a people, producing the fruit of it."** (Matthew 21:42-46) And here is the wretched end ... **"And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like DUST."** Notice the two distinctly wretched outcomes. If the fruitless fall on the stone ... they will be broken to pieces; if the stone falls on them ... they are scattered (crushed) to DUST!

The very ones who rejected Jesus were religious souls whom the LORD removed His protection from and scattered as dust. The religious leaders thought the kingdom belonged to them, and they sought to destroy the heir. Yet, in rejecting the coming King of the Kingdom of God, they were rendered powerless and without anyone to shield them. The Lord provides every good gift and blessing to the faithful soul anchored by the chief cornerstone in His House and utterly destroys those who seek themselves first in God's Kingdom; they will meet their wretched end. The question remains: whom do we serve in this Heavenly Kingdom ... ourselves or our King, Jesus? The choice brings a certain outcome; choose wisely each day.

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