

TALES FROM THE VINEYARD – PART 3

The Tale of the Wicked Tenants

A Tale of Mystery and Murder

Matthew 21



1. The Tale

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. ³⁴ When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.

Matthew 21:33-36

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 have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Matthew 21:37-39

2. The Twist

The S_____ is the Victim

The Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.

Matthew 20:18-19

The L_____ are the Murderers

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

Matthew 21:45

3. The Motive

Jesus Wants the Chief Priests and Pharisees to R_____

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders...He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.

John 19:38-39

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2nd Peter 3:9