

Daily Devotions
for the Week of September 9
WDJS (What Did Jesus Say?)

Monday

Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it to tenant farmers and took a trip. (Matthew 21.33) In this parable, we will see the religious leaders of his day who are not good stewards of all of God's gifts.

Tuesday

When it was time for harvest, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers to collect his fruit. But the tenant farmers grabbed his servants. They beat some of them, and some of them they killed. Some of them they stoned to death. (Matthew 21.34-35) God sends the prophets to call the people to do right, but instead, they reject the prophets and even kill some of them.

Wednesday

Again, he sent other servants, more than the first group. They treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. (Matthew 21.36-37) Finally, God decides to send Jesus to show people the Way, thinking this will cause them to have a change of heart.

Thursday

But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come on, let's kill him, and we'll have his inheritance.' (Matthew 21.38) The plan backfires as people respond negatively and violently even to Jesus, thinking that by eliminating him, they will inherit the earth.

Friday

They grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. (Matthew 21.39) Here it appears Jesus foretells his own death and a very different reason for it than what you may have been taught to believe.

Saturday

When the vineyard owner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers? (Matthew 21.40) Jesus ends the story with a provocative question. What will happen after Good Friday? Is God's love stronger than God's wrath?