

Zion's King Shall Reign Victorious! - 3

Jesus spoke in parables to filter his audience. The parables were often presented in a way that the hearer must ask for a key in order to understand the lesson. Those who were only curious were not willing to sacrifice time and effort to do so, and so remained ignorant.

After hearing one particular parable, "His disciples asked Him, saying, 'What does this parable mean?' 10 And He said, 'To you - those willing to ask - it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest - not interested enough to ask - it is given in parables, that "Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand" - Luke 8:9 - and then Jesus proceeded to give them the meaning in a clear way.

This applied to those who understood the underlying message in Christ's PARABLE of the VINEYARD, sometimes called the Parable of the Wicked Tenants. Their welcome of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem in Luke 19:38, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord," was based firmly on Christ's teaching. The following parable is based on the "Song of my Beloved regarding His Vineyard" in Isaiah 5, which explains in v.7, "the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant plant."

"Then He began to tell the people this parable: 'A certain man (God) PLANTED A VINEYARD (the nation of Israel), leased it to vinedressers (chief priests and the scribes were recognized by the Emperor to be the authorities of this Jewish theocratic state), and went into a far country for a long time. 10 Now at vintage-time he sent a servant* to the vinedressers, that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vinedressers beat him and sent him away empty-handed (*the prophets referred to by Jesus, "O Jerusalem ...the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!"- Luke 13:34)

11 "Again he sent another servant*; and they beat him also, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And again he sent a third*; and they wounded him also and cast him out. 13 Then the owner of the vineyard (God) said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son ("I -God - will be his Father, and he - Jesus - shall be My son" 2 Samuel 7:14). Probably they will respect him when they see him."

14 "But when the vinedressers (chief priests and the scribes) saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'This is the heir ("His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things" - Hebrews 1:2). Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance (the land and nation of the Jews) may be ours.' 15 So they cast him out of the vineyard and killed him (Jesus crucified outside Jerusalem). Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard (God) do to them? 16 'He will come and destroy those vinedressers (destruction of Jewish state in AD 70) and give the vineyard to others (Jesus and the apostles - Matthew 19:28).' And when they (chief priests and the scribes) heard it they said, 'Certainly not!'" (chief priests and the scribes on collision course with Jesus).

17 "And He looked at them and said, 'What then is this that is written: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone"?' (the chief priests and the scribes had no alternative explanation) 18 Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder. (Messiah is the stone of Daniel 2:34-35)' 19 And the chief priests and the scribes...knew that He had spoken this parable against them" - Luke 20:9.

This parable shows how the kingship of Jesus in Jerusalem comes from the promises of God.