

# The Patient Landowner

## Matthew 21:33-46

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The passage we are going to look at today addresses two main questions:

1. What response does Jesus require and desire from us?
2. What happens to those who reject Jesus?

**Take-Home Truth:** God patiently pursues us despite our rejection of Him.

*“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. <sup>35</sup>“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. <sup>36</sup>Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. <sup>37</sup>Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. <sup>38</sup>“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup>“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:*

*“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes”?*

*<sup>43</sup>“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. <sup>44</sup>Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” <sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. <sup>46</sup>They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.*

Matthew 21:33-46 (New International Version)

**Allegory:**

1. The landowner refers to God.
2. The vineyard represents the nation of Israel.
3. The wicked tenants represent the Jewish religious leaders—the priests and people.
4. The servants sent by the owner represents the Old Testament Prophets.
5. The owner’s son represents Jesus Christ.

In this story, Jesus teaches four foundational truths about the character of God. And, once we uncover these truths, then we will find a corresponding personal lesson that we can apply to our lives.

1. GOD IS THE OWNER

Lesson: I don't own anything; I just manage some of God's property.

2. GOD IS PATIENT

Lesson: God sends many servants to communicate His will.

3. GOD IS LOVE

Lesson: God sent His Son to convince me to respond to His offer.

4. GOD IS JUST

Lesson: If I reject God's Son/Stone, I will fall under His judgment.

RESPONSE:

1. Repent.
2. Open your heart to Jesus in your life.
3. Bear fruit.