



## *God's Vineyard Takes the Fruit of Praise for Itself*

For the vineyard of Yahweh of Armies is the house of Israel...He will be a sanctuary, but for both houses of Israel, he will be a trap and a snare for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Many will stumble over it, fall, and be broken – Isaiah 5:7, 8:14-15

[Matthew 21:33-46, Jerusalem, Tuesday]

“Hear another parable. There was a man who was a master of a household, who planted a vineyard, set a hedge about it, dug a pit for a winepress in it, built a tower, leased it out to farmers, and went into another country *for a long time*. When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the farmers, to receive his fruit. The farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they treated them the same way. Again, he sent another servant to them; and they threw stones at him, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. But afterward he sent to them his beloved son, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But the farmers, when they saw the son, said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.”

*When they heard it, they said, “May it never be!”*

*But he said, “When therefore the lord of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?”*

*The stone which the builders rejected, the same was made the head of the corner*

They told him, “He will miserably destroy those miserable men, and will lease out the vineyard to

other farmers, who will give him the fruit in its season.”

Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures,

‘The stone which the builders rejected, the same was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord.

It is marvelous in our eyes?’ [Psalm 118:22]

“Therefore I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and will be given to a nation bringing forth its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but on whomever it will fall, it will scatter him as dust.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he spoke about them. When they sought to seize him, they feared the multitudes, because they considered him to be a prophet. [Mark 12:1-12, Luke 20:9-19]

1. When “prophets” criticize, how do you react? How have you rejected God’s correction?
  
2. How is God patient? What “fruit” does he want? How does he use his son’s rejection?
  
3. Jesus, I rejected you and the prophets, please forgive me and help me give you the fruit...