

Another Day in the Vineyard (Matthew 20-21)

Three Vineyard Parables in Matthew 20 & 21

- 1) Matthew 20:1-16 workers' paid same for different hours labor in vineyard
- 2) Matthew 21:28-32 two sons sent to work in vineyard-One goes: One doesn't
- 3) Matthew 21:33-46 tenants kill son, attempt to steal vineyard 'stone rejected'

Matthew 9:37-38 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but ***the laborers are few***; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

But there are still industrious and self-starting workers who show initiative in the field!

Matthew 13:28 "His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

Two Minute Warning: Wake-Up Buzzer

The Last line of this third parable Matt 21:43 "the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit" sounds a lot like the second parable's line from Matt 20:16 "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

John the Baptist had preached in Luke 3:8-9 "Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance; and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now ***the ax lies at the root of the trees***. Therefore every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (ax-man, reaper)

Will the vineyard produce fruit? Will the tree bear fruit? Will We?

James 2:17 "Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Natural Growth Illustrations (plants, trees, seeds, fruits, etc) in Gospel Teaching

Matt 7:16-17 "Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."

Matt 12:33 "Either make the tree good & its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad."

Matthew 13:3-9 "A sower went out to sow....." on path, rocks thorns, finally fertile ground"

Matthew 13:24-30 Parable of Wheat and weeds

Matthew 13: 31-32 Parable of Mustard Seed

Matthew 24:32-33 ""Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, know that he is near, at the gates."

John 12:24 "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit"

Luke 13:6-9 Jesus the Patient Gardener saves the tree (See the full parable below)

Stump of Jesse Metaphor from Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1 “a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.”

Jeremiah 23:5 “See, the days are coming, when I will raise up a righteous branch for David”
(More on branch sapling, see also Is 4:2; 53:2; Jer 23:5–6; 33:14–16; Zec 3:8; 6:12; Rev 22:16)

Romans 11: 16-18 “and if **the root is holy**, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were **grafted in** their place and have come to share in the rich root of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches.”

Dramatic Judgement on Fig Tree (on Temple and Fruitless, Corrupt Practices)

The Cursing of the Fig Tree from Matthew 21:18-22 “When he was going back to the city in the morning, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went over to it, but found nothing on it except leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again.” And immediately the fig tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed and said, “How was it that the fig tree withered immediately?” Jesus said to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, if you have faith and do not waver, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” **Importantly, Jesus had just cleansed the Temple in Matthew 21:12-17**

Mark’s version’ symbolically sandwiches the Temple cleansing among two mentions of fig tree
Mark chapter 11

Verses 12-14 The Cursing of the Fig Tree (no fruit)

Verses 15-19 The Cleansing of the Temple (no fruit?)

Verses 20-23 The Withering and Death of the Fig Tree

Luke’s version emphasizes more time for conversion, and patient work to bear fruit

Luke 13:6-9 “And Jesus told them this parable: “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. [So] cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

John 1:48-51 “Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, **I saw you under the fig tree.**” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Do you believe because I told you **that I saw you under the fig tree**? You will see greater things than this.” And he said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 7:53-8:1 “Then each went to his own house, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.”

Matt 21:1–11, Mk 11:1–11, Lk 19:28–38, Jn 12:12–15 Jesus on Mount of Olives before his Entry into Jerusalem.

Luke 19:41 “he saw the city and wept over it” in Lk 13 he had lamented it but not from Mount.

Matthew chapters 24-25 **Olivet discourse** 24:3 “As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives”

After Last Supper, on the night before He died he goes to Olives Mount

Matthew 26:36 “Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane (Gethsemane was at foot of Mount of Olives) also in Mk 14:32–42; Lk 22:39–46; John just calls it garden-John 18:1

Acts 1:12 “Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,

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Matthew 21:42 Jesus said, did you not read in the scriptures “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes’

Ps 118:22–23;

Acts 4:11; Peter’s speech “11

c He is ‘the stone rejected by you,* the builders, which has become the cornerstone.’

1 Pt 2:7.

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Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

“The stone which the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone,”