

The first lesson is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do, for my vineyard, that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

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I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Here endeth the first lesson.

The 2nd. lesson is taken from the Gospel according to Saint Luke Ch. 20.

Jesus began to tell the people this parable:

"A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants,
and went to another country for a long time.

When the season came,

he sent a slave to the tenants

in order that they might give him his share of the produce of the vineyard;

but the tenants beat him

and sent him away empty-handed.

Next he sent another slave;

that one also they beat and insulted

and sent away empty-handed.

And he sent still a third;

this one also they wounded and threw out.

Then the owner of the vineyard said,

'What shall I do?

I will send my beloved son;

perhaps they will respect him.'

But when the tenants saw him,

they discussed it among themselves and said,

'This is the heir;

let us kill him

so that the inheritance may be ours.'

So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?

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He will come and destroy those tenants
and give the vineyard to others."

When they heard this, they said, "Heaven forbid!"

But He looked at them and said,

"What then does this text mean:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?

Everyone who falls on that stone
will be broken to pieces;

and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the scribes

and chief priests

realised that he had told this parable against them,
they wanted to lay hands on Him at that very hour,
but they feared the people.

Here endeth the second lesson.