

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Matthew 21: 33-46

33. And Jesus said to His disciples, Hear even another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard. And James interrupteth Him and say, Yea, yea, yea, we know. He had two sons and asked them to go into his vineyard and work it. Really. But Jesus replied, Nay. This is a different householder. This one hedged his vineyard round about with, er – an hedge, and digged a winepress in it, away from the hedge that is, and built a very tall tower using Siloam architects, and some dormitories and a small shop in which to sell his wine, coasters, grape-themed tea towels and the like, and he let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. And some did wink and expect some dissolution. And Thomas, who spoke here in a Johannine way, did ask, What about their wages? Were they paid equal or according to the time they were hired. And Jesus did sigh and say, O do pay attention, Didymus!
34. And He continued, And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And Simon the Zealot said, Then he deserveth everything that shall happen to him since he abandoneth his workers. Absentee landlords are an evil under the sun, if you ask me!
35. But Jesus did silence him with a look he normally reserved for Peter and said, And when the servants arrived at the vineyard the husbandmen took them, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Thaddeus winced exceedingly, and Simon did say, Yay! Power to the people. And what did the owner do? Eh? Eh?
36. And Jesus said, He sent other servants more than the first: and the tenants did unto them likewise. And Nathanael did furrow his brow and say, I think I see where this tale is going, for he was perceptive.
37. And Jesus said, And the householder, having, for the sake of the parable, run out of servants, finally sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.
38. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, Ignore the theological motif - this is the heir; come, let us make sport with him and kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And his seamless robe. Oh, and check his pockets as well.
39. And they caught him, and did despoil him and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him until he was dead.
40. Now, He asked: When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?
41. And the disciples did agree and say unto Him, He will miserably destroy those super-naughty men, and will let out his vineyard, and the shop, unto other husbandmen, who are less naughty, less prone to sporting despoiling, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. And Judas (yes, that one) did ask, Shall he then build bigger barns in which to store his wine and thereby increase his profit? for he was the keeper of the common purse and kept a tight hold on its strings, but also was a bit thick and didn't know that wine stored in barns tends to leak out.
42. But Jesus ignored him and saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner of the thing which the builders are building, with stone: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? And Matthew replied, Yes, Lord, it is as the psalmist has written. And Jesus saith, Verily, and in the age to come it shall be numbered 118, and will be read in the morning of the twenty-fourth day of each month.
43. Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And this shall be called the apocalypse, and there shall be blood and fire and oversized portions of food,

44. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And the disciples did wag their heads, for they perceiveth not the meaning, for it was not yet time. Even Matthew hadn't finished his notes.
45. But when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard His parables, and had consulted their commentaries and concordances, they perceived that He spake of them, and that the said vineyard owner ought to have a capital H, as well as other such letters.
46. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitude, because they took Him for a prophet, and had produced many souvenirs and postcards and special wines, and desireth not to lose their sales. Especially of those grape-themed tea towels.