

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

Jesus told the following parable: There once was a landowner who had a beautiful vineyard. There was a fence around the fresh grapes and a strong watchtower at the center. The time came for the landowner to go on a journey far away, so he rented out the vineyard to some tenants. When it was harvest season, the landowner sent his slave to retrieve his portion of the harvest. Upon the slave's arrival, the tenants took him aside and beat him up. When the slave returned, the landowner sent more slaves, for surely there must have been a misunderstanding. However, the tenants proceeded to beat and stone these slaves too, leaving them badly wounded. When the landowner found out about this repeated offense, he thought to himself, "I will send my son. They will surely respect him and treat him with kindness." The next day, he sent his own son to pick up his share of the harvest, but when the tenants saw the son coming up the path, they said to each other, "This is the landowner's son. Let us kill him so that everything he owns will be ours."

That is exactly what they did. They hurt the son badly and left him to die.

