The Parable of the Tenants

33 "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He
put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he
rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. 34 When the
harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his
fruit.

35 "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a
third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the
tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They
will respect my son,' he said.

38 "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the
heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and threw
him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those
tenants?"

41 "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will
rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at
harvest time."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"'The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes'[a]?

43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from
you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 Anyone who falls on this
stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed."[b]

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew
he was talking about them. 46 They looked for a way to arrest him, but they
were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.