THE CORNERSTONE

Matthew 21:33–46

Key Verse: 21:42

1. What details show the landowner’s expectations for his vineyard? (33,34) In Biblical terms who do the landowner, tenant farmers, servants and the vineyard represent? More broadly, what does this parable suggest about what God expects from each of us?
2. How do the tenant farmers treat the owner’s servants, and how does this characterize Israel’s history? (35,36) What can we learn from this history about God? (Ro2:4) Why does the landowner send his son to them last of all? (37; 1Co13:7) How do the tenants respond, and what does this show about them? (38,39)
3. What question does Jesus ask, how do his hearers respond, and why? (40,41) What surprising thing does Jesus tell them? (42­–44) How would his prediction in verse 43a be fulfilled in the Jews’ history? (24:1,2,15,16) How do the religious leaders respond, and why? (45,46)
4. Read verse 42 again. In construction, why would builders reject a stone? What is a cornerstone? How would this prophecy be fulfilled in Jesus’ death and resurrection? (Ac4:10–12) Read verse 43. How would this prophecy be fulfilled in and through the Gentiles? (Ac28:28; Ro15:9) How can we produce fruit for God’s kingdom? (3:8)
5. Read verse 44. What does it mean to “fall on” this stone and “be broken to pieces”? To be crushed by it? Why is how we respond to Jesus so crucial? (1Pe2:6–8)