

~ A PARABLE WITH TEETH ~

Matthew 21:33-46

INTRODUCTION: Last week we saw Jesus painting a graphic word picture of a Landowner who rented out His vineyard to tenant vinedressers. He did this in the form of a parable – a common earthly story that the hearers would be very familiar with, but with a spiritual meaning that would pack a powerful punch. Jesus was the Master of parables. As He brings the parable to a close He will draw His listeners into the story by asking them a question that directly relates to the story he has been telling. In a sense Jesus “pulled a Nathan” (2 Samuel 12:1-15) on these religious leaders. In giving the obvious answer to Jesus’ question they will pronounce their own condemnation and judgment. Unlike David, who repented and confessed his sin once he realized Nathan’s parable was about him, the chief priests and Pharisees harden their hearts. The question each one of us must ask is – How do I respond when I am confronted and rebuked by God’s Word? Am I like David or like the chief priests and Pharisees?

A. THE PARABLE OF ISRAEL’S DARK **HISTORY** – vv. 33-39

1. THE **PREPARATION** OF THE VINEYARD – v. 33

- A. IT WAS **PLANTED**
- B. IT WAS **PROTECTED**
- C. IT WAS **PRODUCTIVE**

2. THE **LEASING** OF THE VINEYARD – vv. 33

3. THE **BEHAVIOR** OF THE TENANTS – vv. 34-39

- A. WITH THE **SERVANTS** OF THE OWNER - vv. 34-36
- B. WITH THE **SON** OF THE OWNER – vv. 37-39

4. THE **IDENTITY** OF THE CHARACTERS – vv. 33-39

- A. THE LANDOWNER – **ISRAEL’S GOD**
- B. THE VINEDRESSERS – **ISREAL’S LEADERS**
- C. THE SERVANTS – **GOD’S PROPHETS**
- D. THE SON – **GOD’S SON**

B. THE QUESTION TO ISRAEL’S CORRUPT _____ – vv. 40-41

1. THE _____ QUESTION - v. 40

2. THE _____ ANSWER - v. 41

C. THE CLAIMS OF ISRAEL'S REJECTED _____ - vv. 42-44

1. CONCERNING _____ - v. 42

2. CONCERNING _____ - v. 43-44

D. THE RESPONSE OF ISRAEL'S STIFF-NECKED _____ - vv. 45-46