

The Vineyard Parables of Yeshua

Study Questions

Introduction

What is a parable?
Where did Yeshua tell each parable? Who was the audience?
What was the setting for the parable?
Who are the characters in the parable? What are their occupations?
What does the vineyard in the four parables symbolize?
Who does the owner of the vineyard in the four parables symbolize?

Parable of the Fig Tree in the Vineyard

What is the basic outline of the story?
What is the risk of planting a fig tree in a vineyard?
What was the owner's complaint? What did he expect?
Why was the owner's complaint reasonable?
What disadvantages did the barren fig tree cause?
What was the owner's solution?
What was the vinedresser's action plan to deal with the barren fig tree?
What is the goal of the action plan?
What will the vinedresser do if he is not successful?
What does the fig tree symbolize in Scripture? What does the barren fig tree symbolize?
What does this parable tell us about God? the Kingdom? the Messiah?
What is the message of this parable?

Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

What is the basic outline of the story?
What is the significance of a denarius?
How many groups of workers did the vineyard owner hire?
How did the workers who had worked all day view those who were hired at the end of the day?
What is the definition of fairness assumed by the complaining workers?
Was their complaint reasonable? Why or why not?
How does the owner justify his actions?
How did Yeshua describe the complaining workers?
What does the idiomatic expression "first and last" refer to?
What does this parable tell us about God? the Kingdom? the Messiah?
What is the message of this parable?

Parable of the Two Sons and the Vineyard

What is the basic outline of the story?
How does Yeshua contrast the two sons?
What application does Yeshua make of the parable?
What does this parable tell us about God? the Kingdom? the Messiah?
What is the message of this parable?

Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers

What is the basic outline of the story?

What did the owner expect of his vinedressers?

What happened at harvest time?

What was the owner's reaction to the murderous actions of the vinedressers?

Why does the owner decide to appoint replacement vinedressers?

What is the difference between "vinedressers" and "nation?" (Matt 21:41-43)

What does the fruit of the harvest symbolize?

Who do the wicked vinedressers symbolize?

Who does the "beloved son" symbolize?

What is the significance of Yeshua quoting from Psalm 118:22-23?

Who are the "other vinedressers?"

What does this parable tell us about God? the Kingdom? Messiah?

What is the message of this parable?

Parable Application

What areas of discipleship would each these parables have relevance?

How accountable am I to God?

What positive character qualities in the parables serve as an example for me?

What sin is there to avoid?

What implied command is there to obey?

What promise is there to claim?