

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Isaiah** chapter **5** verses **1-7**, which can be found on page **814** in the **old testament** of your pew bible.*

¹I will sing for my beloved my love-song about his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard high up on a fertile hill-side. He trenched it and cleared it of stones and planted it with red vines; he built a watch-tower in the middle and then hewed out a winepress in it. He looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. Now, you who live in Jerusalem, and you men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard that I did not do in it? Why, when I looked for it to yield grapes, did it yield wild grapes? Now listen while I tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away its fences and let it be burnt, I will break down its walls and let it be trampled underfoot, and so I will leave it derelict; it shall be neither pruned nor hoed, but shall grow thorns and briars. Then I will command the clouds to send no more rain upon it. The vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is Israel, and the men of Judah are the plant he cherished. He looked for justice and found it denied, for righteousness but heard cries of distress.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Matthew** chapter **21** verses **33-46**, which can be found on page **30** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

³³Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard: he put a wall round it, hewed out a winepress, and built a watchtower; then he let it out to vine-growers and went abroad. When the vintage season approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect the produce due to him. But they took his servants

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Joel Swenor

and thrashed one, killed another, and stoned a third. Again, he sent other servants, this time a large number; and they did the same to them. At last he sent to them his son.

“They will respect my son”, he said. But when they saw the son the tenants said to one another, “This is the heir; come one, let us kill him, and get his inheritance.” And they took him, flung him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When the owner of the vineyard comes, how do you think he will deal with those tenants? ‘He will bring those bad men to a bad end’, they answered, ‘and hand the vineyard over to other tenants, who will let him have his share of the crop when the season comes.’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the main corner-stone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes”? Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and given to a nation that yields the proper fruit.’

When the chief priests and Pharisees heard his parables, they saw that he was referring to them; they wanted to arrest him, but they were afraid of the people, who looked on Jesus as a prophet.

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.