

Lesson VII.

THE WICKED HUSBANDMEN

August 16, 1914

Matthew 21 : 33-46—Memory Verses, 42-44.

Golden Text—The stone which the builders rejected, the same was made the head of the corner.—Matthew 21 : 42 (Rev. Ver.).



45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.
46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The Lesson contains a story that Jesus told in the temple. Once there was a man who planted a vineyard. He set a hedge round about it to protect it from wild beasts. He planted fine young vines in it. He made a winepress for the making of wine from the grapes, and built a tower from which a watch could be kept lest robbers should come into the vineyard and steal its fruit. The man did everything that he could for his vineyard.

When all this was done, the owner rented the vineyard to men called husbandmen, and he himself went to a far country.

By and by the time for fruit-gathering came. The owner sent servants to bring him his share of the fruit of the vineyard, for the rent was to be paid in fruit. But the husbandmen caught the servants and one they beat, another they killed and at another they flung stones.

The owner then sent other servants to ask for the rent of the vineyard. But the wicked husbandmen treated these servants just as

33 Hear another parable : There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country :

34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir ; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen ?

41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner : this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes ?

43 Therefore say I unto you, The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken : but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

they had treated those first sent, and refused to give the owner what belonged to him by right.

So the master tried again and again to get his fruit from the husbandmen, but, in spite of all that he could do, they refused to give what they owed, and showed their hatred to the owner by ill-treating and even killing his servants.

Now the master of the vineyard had a son, an only son, whom he dearly loved. He said to himself, "They surely will honor my son," and he sent him to get the fruit of the vineyard which belonged to him.

When the wicked husbandmen saw the son they said : "This is the heir. The father expects to give him the vineyard some day. Come, let us kill him! Then the vineyard may be ours."

Then the wicked men seized the son and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

When Jesus finished telling His story, He asked the people : "When the owner of the