



Re-read

today's gospel story about the murder in the vineyard.

Who Is The Owner?

Clues:

- The owner created the beautiful vineyard and then entrusted it to those who worked there.
- The owner gave the workers a special task, equipped them with all they would need to perform their duties, and left them in charge of his property.
- The owner was patient with them. Although they repeatedly disobeyed instructions, he kept giving them another chance.

Who Are The Workers?

Clues:

- The vineyard had been created by the owner especially for the workers.
- The workers had been specially chosen by the owner to be in charge of his property.
- The workers deliberately ignored the owner's trust and rebelled against him.

Who Are The Other Messengers?

Clues:

- The messengers were sent by the owner to collect what was due to him.
- Messenger after messenger came to the vineyard to warn the workers to shape up.
- The workers not only ignored the messengers, they brutally beat them and even killed one of them.

Who Is The Owner's Son?

Clues:

- Even after the workers treated the messengers so badly, the owner gave them another chance by sending his own son.
- Instead of listening to the son, the workers beat him and had him killed.
- Because the workers had killed this special son, they lost their share of the inheritance that the owner had planned for them.

GOSPEL THEME

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.



Vineyard Mystery Solved

The vineyard is the world that God created. The owner of the vineyard is God. The workers in the vineyard are the Israelites, the people chosen by God to inherit the kingdom. The messengers are the prophets sent by God throughout the centuries to warn the Israelites to

change their ways. The son who was rejected and killed by the workers is Jesus Christ. The inheritance is the kingdom of heaven. This inheritance is given to those who accept Jesus.



SHARING the GOOD NEWS

Activity for Class
or Family



What Is Your Inheritance?

Hidden in the following magic square below are some of the “fringe benefits” of the inheritance given to those who accept Jesus. How many can you find and circle?

The inheritance of eternal life belongs to all those who accept Jesus as their personal Savior. You and I are heirs to the kingdom God has prepared for us. It is easy to judge the workers in today’s parable because their rejection of the son was so blatant and cruel. Yet many times we, too, reject Christ. This could be a good week to reflect on those times you have rejected Jesus and consider ways you can strengthen your Christian commitment.

- 1 Have you ever avoided someone who was too “religious,” perhaps because he or she embarrasses you in front of your friends by talking about God all the time?
- 2 Have you ever missed an opportunity to speak up for someone who was being unjustly treated because you didn’t want to look like a “do-gooder”?
- 3 Have you ever laughed at jokes that were cruel or in bad taste because everyone else was laughing?
- 4 Do you spread gossip?
- 5 Are you uncomfortable speaking about your faith with others?

If your answer to even one of these questions is yes, discuss ways you can improve your attitude.



WORD LIST: HEAVEN MASS FORGIVENESS
 HOLY SPIRIT SAINTS GRACE
 SACRAMENTS CHURCH ETERNAL LIFE

