

Stewards of the Vineyard

Matthew 21:33-40

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Photo by Joel Bock

Matthew 21:33-40

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."



Three Things

- Hope and the prophets
- What hope is
- Hope and the environment

Hope & the Prophets

- Climatologists as prophets?

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- Climatologists as prophets?
- Role of a prophet: reality and alternative vision

What is Hope?

- Hope theory in psychology

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- Philosophy: choosing to hope against hope

Hope in Hebrew

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- *Yachal / tohelet* (תְּהַלֵּל / תְּהַלֵּל)
 - Expectant hoping and continuous waiting (on God)

“Hope” in Hebrew and Greek

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- *Yachal / tohelet* (יַחַל / תְּהִלָּת)
 - Expectant hoping and continuous waiting (on God)
- *Elpis* (ἐλπίς)
 - Similar to *yachal*

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- Why not hope?
- Hope for the future through looking at the past

Hope & the Environment

- San Francisco

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- Watershed discipleship examples

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- Watershed discipleship examples
- “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” —Margaret Mead

Summary of Hope

- Awareness of reality
- Remembering God's faithfulness in the past
- Vision for the future
- Examples/stories of how others are taking small steps
- Seeing the next steps
- Sense of motivation to get there through shared community and the agency of God
- Celebrating!

What kind of steward will I be?

“People say, ‘What is the sense of our small effort?’ They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time.”

—Dorothy Day

