19th Sunday After Pentecost. Year of St. Matthew, "A", September 4, 2026

Title:

Harsh warning attributed to gentle Jesus. (or, how do we get their attention!)

This parable gets my attention, for sure. It focuses the attention of the hearer on the life and death content of the Gospel. The Gospel is "good news" because it charts the only way through the deadly terrain ahead for creation. Jesus lays it out every way possible including in these deadly terms of life, death, and eternity.

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus said, "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 slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, 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."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared

the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.



WHAT WILL THE OWNER OF THE VINEYARD DO WHEN HE COMES...