

**Sermon Title:***“Unrelenting Sin, Incomprehensible Love”***Scripture:** Matthew 21:33-46

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Sunday, April 5, 2020

**The parable of “The Unfaithful Tenants” introduced** *(v. 33-34):*

* **The vineyard** reminds us of Israel and **the owner** is the Lord God. *(Psalm 80:8-9)*
* **The tenants** are Israel’s leaders.
* **The servants** were the prophets sent to call for Israel to give their worship to the Lord God.

**What the parable reveals:**

1. **An unrelenting wickedness. *(v. 35-40)***

***Scripture:*** *Isaiah 5:3-4; Matthew 15:8-9; John 5:39-40*

* The parable is both descriptive of Israel’s past and prophetic in relation to Jesus’ coming death.
1. **An inescapable conclusion. *(v. 41-44)***
* The conclusion for the tenants was just. *(v. 41)*
* The conclusion for Israel was personal. *(v. 43)*
* The conclusion for all who oppose Christ is both personal & devastating. *(v. 44; Luke 13:5)*
1. **An incomprehensible love. *(v. 42-43)***
* The beauty of God’s love is displayed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ *(v. 42; Psalm 118:22-23; Acts 4:11-12; 1 John 4:9-10)*
	+ The hideous cross is beautiful because it displayed the incomprehensible love of God. *(Romans 5:8)*
* The grace of God’s love is witnessed in the gift of the kingdom and its fruit. *(v. 43)*
	+ The first fruits of the kingdom are repentance and faith in Christ. *(Mark 1:14-15)*
	+ The greatest fruit of the kingdom is our love and worship of God. *(Matthew 22:37)*

**Conclusion:** In the aftermath of the parable, we find a revealing rejection. *(v. 45-46)*

1. Christ’s enemies heard the truth and rejected it.
2. Christ’s enemies feared the people and it restrained them (temporarily).

**Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…**

1. In the parable, who did the owner, the vineyard, the tenants and the servants represent? What did the wine press and tower represent?
2. Why were Israel’s religious leaders so unrelenting in their rejection of Jesus?
3. In what ways can religious people, who claim to follow Jesus, be just like the religious leaders?
4. Was the crowd’s condemnation of the tenants just?
5. What is “marvelous in our eyes” about the “Lord’s doing” as noted in verse 42?
6. What is the message of v. 44? How should every person respond to the message of v. 44?
7. What is most troubling about the fact that the leaders “perceived that he was speaking about them,” yet they still sought to arrest him?