First Christian Church
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

MESSAGE SHEET
Series: Grace Isn't Cheap
Fall 2026

Who Owns the Vineyard

Matthew 21:33–46 · Sunday, October 4, 2026 · Rev. William Mitchell

THE PASSAGE

Matthew 21:33–46. A landowner leases his vineyard to tenants. When he sends servants to collect the harvest, the tenants beat and kill them. Last of all he sends his son, and they kill him too. “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

THREE TAKEAWAYS

1. The tenants confused stewardship with ownership. They were entrusted with something sacred, but it was never theirs.
2. The church belongs to God. These are not my people; these are God’s people. It’s not our church — it’s God’s.
3. The question is what fruit we produce. Will God find religious activity in our church, or kingdom fruit?

THREE QUESTIONS FOR THE TABLE

1. Where are we in this story? What kind of tenants are we?
2. Is there anything we are protecting that might keep new people out?
3. What fruit would you like God to find in your life this year?