

THE PARABOLIC TEACHING ABOUT CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Lesson 6: The Vineyard and the Wicked Husbandmen

15-Point Chronological Discussion Outline & Worksheet • Dr. Dallas Willard Lecture Series (1983)

1. Outward Authority vs. Inward Reality

[Audio ~00:00 – 03:45]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:23–27; 2 Timothy 3:5

Dallas Willard Insight: Religious leaders held official human credentials but lacked true spiritual life and connection with God.

Discussion Question: How can religious leaders possess official human credentials while remaining completely estranged from God's living authority?

My Notes & Answer:

2. The Parable of the Vineyard Planted

[Audio ~03:45 – 07:15]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:33; Isaiah 5:1–7

Dallas Willard Insight: God lavishly equipped His vineyard with every necessity, entrusting responsibility to human leaders to produce fruit.

Discussion Question: What resources and care has God provided in His vineyard that make fruitlessness inexcusable?

My Notes & Answer:

3. The Expectations of the Owner

[Audio ~07:15 – 10:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:34; Luke 13:6–9

Dallas Willard Insight: God expects a return of genuine righteousness and love from those entrusted with spiritual care and leadership.

Discussion Question: What specific fruit does God expect to receive from those whom He places in spiritual leadership?

My Notes & Answer:

4. Rejection of God's Messengers

[Audio ~10:30 – 14:00]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:35–36; Acts 7:51–52

Dallas Willard Insight: Throughout history, self-protective religious establishments have mistreated and rejected God's prophetic messengers.

Discussion Question: Why do human religious institutions routinely resist and persecute God's prophetic calls to repentance?

My Notes & Answer:

5. Sending the Beloved Son

[Audio ~14:00 – 17:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:37; Mark 12:6

Dallas Willard Insight: God's ultimate gesture of grace was sending His beloved Son, expecting that people would honor and respect Him.

Discussion Question: How does sending His beloved Son reveal the depth of God's patience and desire for human salvation?

My Notes & Answer:

6. Plotting Against the Heir

[Audio ~17:30 – 21:00]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:38–39; John 11:47–50

Dallas Willard Insight: The husbandmen killed the Son to preserve their own human power and property, exposing selfish heart motives.

Discussion Question: How does the desire to preserve personal power drive religious people to reject Christ's lordship?

My Notes & Answer:

7. Pronouncing Their Own Judgment

[Audio ~21:00 – 24:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:40–41; Luke 19:22

Dallas Willard Insight: When asked what the owner should do, the listeners unwittingly pronounced their own just condemnation.

Discussion Question: How do human beings condemn themselves when judging others for the exact sins they commit?

My Notes & Answer:

8. The Rejected Cornerstone

[Audio ~24:30 – 28:00]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:42; Psalm 118:22–23

Dallas Willard Insight: Jesus, rejected by human builders, becomes the indispensable foundation stone of God's eternal Kingdom.

Discussion Question: What does it mean that Jesus is the chief cornerstone rejected by human religious builders?

My Notes & Answer:

9. Taking Away the Kingdom

[Audio ~28:00 – 31:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:43; Acts 13:46

Dallas Willard Insight: God removes spiritual authority from fruitless, self-serving leaders and entrusts it to those producing true fruit.

Discussion Question: Why does God revoke spiritual authority from religious institutions that fail to produce Kingdom fruit?

My Notes & Answer:

10. Falling on the Stone vs. Stone Falling on You

[Audio ~31:30 – 35:00]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:44; Isaiah 8:14–15

Dallas Willard Insight: We must humbly fall on Christ to be broken in repentance, or resist Him until judgment crushes us.

Discussion Question: What is the difference between humbly falling on Christ in brokenness and resisting Him until judgment?

My Notes & Answer:

11. Realizing Jesus Spoke of Them

[Audio ~35:00 – 38:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:45–46; Mark 12:12

Dallas Willard Insight: The leaders understood the parable's indictment, but instead of repenting, they sought to arrest Jesus.

Discussion Question: Why do hardened hearts respond to convicting truth with anger and defensiveness rather than repentance?

My Notes & Answer:

12. Certificates of Power vs. Heavenly Enablement

[Audio ~38:30 – 42:00]

Scripture Focus: 2 Corinthians 3:5–6; John 15:5

Dallas Willard Insight: Human credentials cannot manufacture spiritual power; true authority flows only from divine enablement and connection.

Discussion Question: Why are human degrees and titles powerless without the living enablement of the Holy Spirit?

My Notes & Answer:

13. Rooting Out the Desire for Human Honor

[Audio ~42:00 – 45:15]

Scripture Focus: John 5:44; Galatians 1:10

Dallas Willard Insight: Seeking approval and praise from human beings destroys our capacity to receive and walk in divine faith.

Discussion Question: How does craving human applause and recognition destroy our ability to walk in genuine faith?

My Notes & Answer:

14. Fruitfulness as the Standard of Kingdom Life

[Audio ~45:15 – 47:30]

Scripture Focus: John 15:8, 16; Matthew 7:16–20

Dallas Willard Insight: The sole test of true Kingdom citizenship is producing the lasting fruit of Christlike love, peace, and righteousness.

Discussion Question: Why is Christlike character and love the only valid proof of genuine Kingdom citizenship?

My Notes & Answer:

15. Vigilant Alertness to God's Movement

[Audio ~47:30 – 50:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 19:44; Revelation 3:2

Dallas Willard Insight: We must remain humble and alert so we do not miss God's present, active visitation in our lives.

Discussion Question: How can we maintain spiritual alertness so we never miss God's active visitation in daily life?

My Notes & Answer: