The Parable of the Tenants

Matthew 21:28-46

The Parable of the Two Sons

28 "What do you think? There was a man who had two
sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work
today in the vineyard.' 29 "'I will not,' he answered, but
later he changed his mind and went. 30 "Then the father
went to the other son and said the same thing. He
answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. 31 "Which of the
two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they
answered. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax
collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom
of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show
you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe
him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And
even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe
him.

This parable in one sentence teaches us this:

Through the rejection of Jesus, there is acceptance through Jesus.

Please note: this parable does not lend itself to a three-point outline.

The Parable of the Tenants

33 "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner
who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a
winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented
the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another
place. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his
servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. 35 "The
tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed
another, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other
servants to them, more than the first time, and the
tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he
sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.
38 "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each
other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his
inheritance.' 39 So they took him and threw him out of
the vineyard and killed him. 40 "Therefore, when the
owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those
tenants?" 41 "He will bring those wretches to a wretched
end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to
other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at
harvest time." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never
read in the Scriptures:

"'The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be
taken away from you and given to a people who will
produce its fruit. 44 Anyone who falls on this stone will
be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be
crushed." 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees
heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about
them. 46 They looked for a way to arrest him, but they
were afraid of the crowd because the people held that
he was a prophet.

Here are some key ideas from the teaching:

In the Old Testament, Israel is rejected by the nations.

In the New Testament, Jesus is rejected by Israel.

The rejected stone is the crucified Christ. The restored stone is the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

In this parable, the people who reject the Father, also reject the Son and they take the son's life in pursuit of the inheritance. **In the gospel**, God's Son gives His inheritance by dying for people, including the people who take His life.