

# Matthew 21:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

## Analysis

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**He will miserably destroy those wicked men**—κακοὺς κακῶς ἀπολέσει αὐτούς (kakous kakōs apolesei autous)—'bad [men] badly he will destroy.' The wordplay intensifies: wicked men receive wicked destruction. The leaders pronounced their own judgment, not recognizing they described their coming fate (AD 70 destruction of Jerusalem).

**And will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons**—the kingdom transfers from ethnic Israel to the Church (Jew and Gentile united in Christ). God demands fruit; fruitless stewards lose their stewardship. The 'other husbandmen' are apostles and those who bear genuine spiritual fruit through faith in Christ.

## Historical Context

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Within 40 years of this parable, Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple (AD 70), ending the Jewish sacrificial system. The gospel went to the Gentiles as Jesus predicted (Acts 13:46). Israel's rejection wasn't racial but covenantal—unbelieving Jews were cut off, believing Gentiles grafted in (Rom 11:17-24). The new husbandmen are all who believe.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the transfer of stewardship warn against presuming on God's patience with ongoing fruitlessness?
2. What fruit 'in their seasons'—consistent, timely spiritual production—does God expect from your life in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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|--------------|-------|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|---------|
| λέγουσιν     | αὐτῶν | Κακοὺς       | κακῶς             | ἀπολέσει   | αὐτῶν      |         |
| They say     | him   | wicked men   | He will miserably | destroy    | him        |         |
| G3004        | G846  | G2556        | G2560             | G622       | G846       |         |
| καὶ          | τὸν   | ἀμπελῶνα     | ἐκδόσεται         | ἄλλοις     | γεωργοῖς   | οἵτινες |
| and          | G3588 | his vineyard | will let out      | unto other | husbandmen | which   |
| G2532        |       | G290         | G1554             | G243       | G1092      | G3748   |
| ἀποδώσουσιν  | αὐτῶν | τοὺς         | καρποὺς           | ἐν         | τοῖς       | καιροῖς |
| shall render | him   | G3588        | the fruits        | in         | G3588      | seasons |
| G591         | G846  |              | G2590             | G1722      |            | G2540   |
| αὐτῶν        |       |              |                   |            |            |         |
| him          |       |              |                   |            |            |         |
| G846         |       |              |                   |            |            |         |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 18:6** (Parallel theme): And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

**Acts 28:28** (Parallel theme): Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

**Matthew 21:43** (Parallel theme): Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

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