

*‘Therefore, I say to you,
the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that will produce its fruit.’”*

Whenever I read this passage from Scripture, I am taken aback by Jesus’ brashness in addressing some of their contemporary society’s key authority figures. Jesus presents them—and us—with a parable of generosity, stewardship, and selfishness. The tenants of the vineyard were entrusted with overseeing the flourishing of the landowner’s produce and the handing over of the fruits of that labor. Though the landowner had provided them with everything they could ever need—a hedge, wine press, and tower—they believed themselves to be more deserving; they believed themselves to be solely responsible for what was produced. They rejected God’s authority and conveniently forgot who helped to get them where they were—believing themselves to be righteous and superior.

My mind goes to the billionaire class who continue to profit off the labor of others, who believe all that they have is due to their work alone, or that their wealth puts them above others. Yet it is the stone rejected that will become the Cornerstone. There are leaders who have forgotten the source and direction of their vocation. They have been entrusted with the stewardship and care of that which God has gifted them, and—thinking themselves wise—have used their position to take what they can for themselves.

My sense is that we too have at times betrayed God’s trust in us; perhaps we too have forgotten the purpose for which we were entrusted our gifts: to serve God through service to others. We may reject or “other” those deemed “unworthy” or “underserving.” May we heed this warning and cultivate spaces and communities that bear fruit for the betterment of all.

~David Gaillardetz, Oct. 4, 2026