

Oct 4, 2020 Mt. 21: 33-46 & Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

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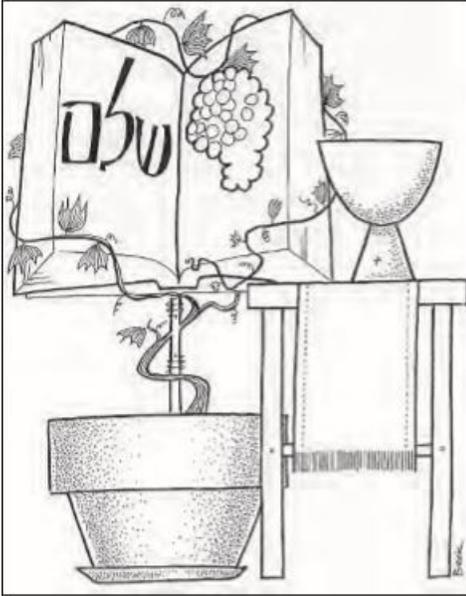
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Stone, Naomi. [Wellspring of Love](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [The Size of our Hearts](#)

[Monastery Sunday Homilies](#)



ENTERING THE SCENE:

Once again Jesus confronts the powers that be with their evil mistreatment of his Father's people. They even set it up so that the law permitted the takeover of property of someone who died without heirs. One wonders if Jesus was thinking that by killing him, they could do that with the people who were following him as well. Why else risk everything as they did by killing him? He then becomes the stone that the builders had rejected, only to become the cornerstone. By the time Matthew has written this gospel, the temple, with its Sadducee leadership is gone. The newborn community of the "Way" is slowly attracting more and more with its witness to the kind of God that Jesus revealed. Each age tends its own vineyard. How are we doing in our vineyards?

Mt. 21: 33-46

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 went away on a journey. 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 **capstone**; 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 He who **falls** on this **stone** will be **broken** to pieces, but he 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**.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Each of us is asked to take our place in the watchtowers of our day. How do we deal with the abuse of power we see from our individual towers?

PRAYER: Jesus, you are very aware of the ways we set things up so to protect our advantages. You also know how we create stumbling blocks out of what should be capstones. On your cross you asked your and our Father to forgive us because we don't know what we are doing. Help us to learn from you so that we don't stumble around in self-imposed ignorance any longer. Amen.