

# Jesus IOI

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it . . . and built a tower.”  
–Matthew 21:33*

When I was growing up, my family had a vine that covered the whole back patio. This was a rare blessing, since we lived in the city. My parents took good care of it; they were vigilant against anything that could threaten its existence. Every year on the day of the *harvest*, my parents would bring in special equipment to make juice and bottle it. It was amazingly sweet! Later I was surprised to learn that a vineyard was a metaphor for God’s people.

Jesus began the second of three parables addressed to the religious leaders using a unique metaphor of Israel as a vineyard (see Matthew 21:33-41). The details alluded to Isaiah’s portrayal of Israel:

My well-beloved had a vineyard . . .  
He dug it all around, removed its stones,  
And planted it with the choicest vine.  
And He built a tower in the middle of it  
And also hewed out a wine vat in it . . .  
(Isaiah 5:1, 2).

Renting out a vineyard and paying rent with the produce was customary, but in the parable, the renters withheld the fruit from the landowner and then beat and killed his servants who were prophets/messengers from God. I am amazed at the perseverance of the landowner (God). Instead of destroying the renters, He kept sending more messengers to the vineyard, who met the same fate. Finally, the landowner sent his son, representing Jesus. The vine growers, wanting the inheritance for themselves, took Him out of the vineyard and killed Him. Eventually God took the vineyard from them and gave it to others. It’s not that God ran out of patience, but that He gave all His Resources! Jesus is the Heir and the exact representation of God’s nature (Hebrews 1:1-3). In Jesus, God emptied Himself, giving all He had! If a person, or a religious system, rejects the centrality of Jesus, the maximum manifestation of God’s love and grace and *the only way to be saved*, what else can God do? May we lift up Jesus and His salvific work as our core belief, because He is the *One and Only Savior*!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins! Daily Devotional*, p. 230