

# The Rejected Cornerstone: Understanding the Landowner's Son



Explore Matthew 21:33—46 to grasp Jesus as the rejected cornerstone and reflect on how we respond to God's call in our lives.

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## Introduction

Welcome to this three-day Bible study on **"The Landowner Who Sends His Son,"** a powerful parable told by Jesus in Matthew 21:33–46. This passage reveals profound truths about Jesus' role as the rejected Cornerstone and invites us to examine our own responses to God's call.

In the story, a landowner plants a vineyard and entrusts it to tenants, but when he sends servants to collect his due, they are mistreated, culminating in the sending of his beloved son, who is also rejected and killed. This allegory unveils how God's patience toward His people was met with rejection, culminating in the sending of Jesus, His Son, who Himself was rejected and crucified.

*The cornerstone* is a foundational stone in a building's architecture, crucial for stability and alignment. Jesus is described as this cornerstone in Scripture, signifying that He is the essential foundation of our faith and God's redemptive plan, yet He was rejected by many. This invites us to ponder: **how do we respond to the cornerstone in our lives? Do we recognize Jesus' authority and surrender fully to Him, or do we resist and reject His lordship?**

Throughout these three days, we will delve deeply into this parable, discovering not only the historical and spiritual context but also the personal implications it holds. Together, we will seek to understand God's heart, recognize Jesus' place as the cornerstone, and reflect on our own response to



His invitation. Join this journey with an open heart, ready to learn and be transformed.





# Day 1: 🌿 The Vineyard and Its Keepers



## Day 1: 🌿 The Vineyard and Its Keepers

## Your Verse

*Matthew 21:33 NIV - "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."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Isaiah 5:1-2 - "My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside."*
- *Psalms 80:8 - "You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it."*



Day 1: 🌿 The Vineyard and Its Keepers

## Devotional: God's Vineyard and Our Stewardship

**In this first part of the parable**, Jesus paints a vivid picture of a vineyard carefully prepared by a landowner, symbolizing God's kingdom and His people. The vineyard was well-planned, protected, and nurtured; God's intention for His people was blessing and fruitfulness.

*The tenants represent the leaders of Israel entrusted with caring for God's people.* However, the parable sets the stage for conflict because these tenants do not honor their calling. This invites us to think seriously about stewardship and responsibility — how often do we, as individuals or leaders, overlook or reject the purposes God has given us?

Reflect on the care God provides us and the opportunities we receive to bear fruit for His kingdom. The care of the vineyard requires faithfulness; God calls us to respond with obedience, humility, and gratitude.



Day 1: 🌿 The Vineyard and Its Keepers

## Reflect and Apply

1. What does the vineyard symbolize in your life and faith journey?

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2. How have you experienced God's care and preparation in your own spiritual growth?

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3. In what ways might you be called to bear fruit in God's vineyard today?

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Day 1: 🌿 The Vineyard and Its Keepers

## Journaling Prompts

1. 1. Write about a time you felt entrusted with a responsibility by God.

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2. 2. Reflect on areas where you may be resisting or neglecting God's calling in your life.

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3. 3. Consider how you can cultivate faithfulness in your personal spiritual 'vineyard.'

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Day 1: 🌿 The Vineyard and Its Keepers

## Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for planting us in Your vineyard with such care and purpose. Help me to recognize Your nurturing hand in my life and to respond with faithfulness. Teach me to be a good steward of what You have entrusted to me and to bear fruit that honors You. Give me eyes to see where I need to grow and courage to embrace Your call fully. *May my life reflect Your love and grace as I walk in Your purpose.* Amen. 🍇 🙏 🌿





## Day 2: The Servants Rejected



Day 2:  The Servants Rejected

## Your Verse

*Matthew 21:35-36 NIV - "Then he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Jeremiah 7:25 - "Whenever I sent my servants the prophets, they were tormented, but they did not give up."*
- *Luke 13:34 - "Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."*



Day 2:  The Servants Rejected

## Devotional: Welcoming God's Messengers with Open Hearts

**The rejection of the servants reveals a heart hardened to God's messengers, representing centuries of prophets who pleaded with Israel to return to God. Their message was met with hostility, rejection, and violence.**

As believers, this challenges us to examine our own openness to God's correction and guidance. Do we welcome His messengers, His Word, and His Spirit, or do we push away uncomfortable truth?

*God's patience is immense, sending servant after servant despite rejection.* We see here a profound picture of God's mercy contrasted with human stubbornness. This serves as a sobering reminder: failing to heed God's voice can lead us into spiritual loss and distance from Him.

Take time today to listen attentively to God's voice and reflect on how you respond when He speaks through His Word, through others, or through your conscience.



Day 2:  The Servants Rejected

## Reflect and Apply

1. How do you typically respond when God's Word convicts or challenges you?

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2. Have you resisted correction or guidance from God's messengers recently?

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3. What might God be trying to say to you today through His Spirit or His Word?

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Day 2:  The Servants Rejected

## Journaling Prompts

1. 1. Write about a time you received correction or conviction from God and how you responded.

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2. 2. Reflect on any barriers you might have in fully embracing God's guidance.

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3. 3. Commit to one practical way you can open your heart more to God's voice.

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Day 2:  The Servants Rejected

## Prayer for Today

**Father, thank You for Your endless patience and for sending Your messengers to guide us.** Forgive me for moments when I have resisted Your voice or hardened my heart. Help me to receive Your Word and correction with humility and grace. Open my eyes and ears to Your Spirit's leading each day. *May I be quick to listen and obedient to Your call.* In Jesus' name, Amen. 







## Day 3: ✖ The Cornerstone Rejected and Our Response



## Day 3: ☒ The Cornerstone Rejected and Our Response

## Your Verse

*Matthew 21:42 NIV - "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'?"*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 118:22 - "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*
- *Ephesians 2:19-20 - "Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone."*



## Devotional: Jesus: Our Rejected but Perfect Cornerstone

**Here we come to the heart of the parable — Jesus as the rejected Cornerstone.** The religious leaders rejected Him, yet through His rejection, God established Him as the foundation of salvation and the church.

*This powerful truth calls us to examine our own response: Do we accept Jesus as the cornerstone of our lives?* Accepting Jesus means surrendering our own plans and pride and aligning ourselves with His purposes.

Rejection often signals a choice: to reject or receive. Jesus' rejection by others opened the door for us to receive forgiveness, new life, and a solid foundation.

Today, reflect on how you relate to the cornerstone. Is Jesus firmly at the center of your life, or is He still being pushed aside? What does it mean for you to build on His foundation daily?



## Day 3: ☒ The Cornerstone Rejected and Our Response

## Reflect and Apply

1. In what ways have you accepted or resisted Jesus as the cornerstone of your life?

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2. How does recognizing Jesus as the cornerstone affect your faith and daily living?

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3. What steps can you take to build your life more firmly on Jesus' foundation?

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## Day 3: ☒ The Cornerstone Rejected and Our Response

# Journaling Prompts

1. 1. Write about what it means personally for Jesus to be your cornerstone.

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2. 2. Reflect on any areas where you are struggling to fully surrender to Jesus' lordship.

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3. 3. Consider practical ways to deepen your foundation in Christ starting today.

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## Day 3: ☒ The Cornerstone Rejected and Our Response

## Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus, You are the cornerstone rejected by many but chosen by God for salvation.** I choose to build my life on You today, fully accepting Your lordship and grace. Strengthen my faith and help me to live in a way that honors You as my firm foundation. Remove any barriers or doubts that keep me from surrendering fully. *Thank You for being my unshakeable Cornerstone.* In Your mighty name, Amen. ☒☒☒





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