

# Friday 2nd of Lent

**Gospel text (Mt 21,33-43.45-46): Jesus said to the chief priests and elders, «Listen to another example: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard (...), leased the vineyard to tenants and then went to a distant country. When harvest time came, the land-owner sent his servants to the tenants to collect his share of the harvest. But the tenants seized his servants, beat one, killed another and stoned another (...). Finally, he sent his son (...). But when the tenants saw the son, they thought: ‘This is the one who is to inherit the vineyard. Let us kill him and his inheritance will be ours’ (...).**

**Jesus replied, «Have you never read what the Scriptures say?: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the keystone (...). Therefore I say to you: the kingdom of heaven will be taken from you and given to a people who will yield a harvest» (...).**

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## *News of the “Parable of the vineyards and its tenants”*

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

*(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)*

Today, Jesus takes up again, by modifying it, Isaiah’s “song of the vineyards” (5,1-7): the vineyards looked like the image of the “wife”, Israel: those whom God had shown the way to the “Torah”, but answered by breaking the law...

Now, in the words of Jesus, Israel is represented by the tenants. The story of God’s struggle —continually renewed— by and with Israel is shown in a succession of “servants” who, on behalf of the owner, come to collect the rent. The abuse to the servants reflects the history of the prophets, their suffering... Although the “son” will run the same fate; the “Master” will not abandon the vineyards: he will rent it to others...

—Isn’t this a description of our present? We declare that “God has died” and thus

**we are god and the “vineyard” is ours! Let’s now begin to unveil the consequences of all this... However, the death of the “Son” is not the last word: He is the “cornerstone” through his death and resurrection brings a new beginning.**