

# Sunday 27th (A) in Ordinary Time

**Gospel text (Mt 21,33-43):** Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, «Listen to another example: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a hole for the winepress, built a watchtower, leased the vineyard to tenants and then went to a distant country. When harvest time came, the landowner 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, thinking: ‘They will respect my son’.

»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’. So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him (...))»

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## *The Parable of the Wicked Tenants: a station on the "Path of the Cross"*

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

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, Jesus Christ speaks directly to those that should have known Him better: the chief priests and the elders of Israel. The Master —with His usual pedagogy— makes use of a comparison, in which He already announces more clearly His destination: the Cross. Jesus, the son of God, will be cast out from the boundaries of Jerusalem —His beloved "vineyard"— and there He will be killed by the "tenants", who did not want to recognize Him.

By allowing the inference of the divine mystery of Jesus Christ, the parables give rise to apparent contradiction. When they reach a maximum transparency —as in this case— they nearly become stations of the "Path of the Cross". Even more so, they are part of the mystery of the Cross. Finally, there, from the Cross, the

**parables are definitely deciphered. On the Cross Jesus does not speak of comparisons: He is Himself.**

**—O Lord, I pray for the world, so they know You and are not afraid of You. You are the seed that has fallen to die to bear a good fruit for us.**