Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Gospel text (*Mt* 21:33-43): Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned... Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him..."

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.