Sermon Outline
"Transferring the Kingdom"
Matthew 21:33-46

I. The flow of the narrative in Chapter 21
   A. The dramatic entry to Jerusalem (the King has come) vv. 1-17
   B. The temple set aside as the center of God's worship vv. 18-22
   C. The nation (ethnic Israel) set aside as the covenant people vv. 23-46

II. Jesus tells two parables to teach the removal of ethnic Israel
   A. The parable of two sons vv. 23-32
      The leadership of Israel stands outside the covenant.
   B. The parable of the vineyard and its keepers vv. 33-46
      Ethnic Israel is removed as the caretaker of God's Kingdom.

III. The parable of the vineyard – transferring the Kingdom
   A. The background of the parable – Is 5:1-7
      The hedge, winepress and tower v. 2 (*cf.* v. 5)
      Identity: The house of Israel and the men of Judah (v. 7 & 3)
         God looked for practical justice, but found oppression (1:17).
         God looked for faithfulness, but found despair.
   B. Jesus focuses, not on the bad fruit, but on the tenders of the vineyard – the priests – whose work has produced bad fruit, which is the same as no fruit (*see* v. 19, 43; 3:8-10; 7:15-20).
      1. The priests and Levites were to instruct, protect, heal
            Yet, they had stolen God's vineyard, treating it as theirs
      2. The prophets were sent to correct them (*cf.* Mt 11:9-11)
            Yet, they killed the prophets (*cf.* vv. 25-27)

IV. The stone that unites and crushes
   A. Quotation from Ps 118:22
            "Blessed is he who comes" v. 26 (**See Mt 21:9**)
            Men seek to destroy the Lord's anointed vv. 10-13
            But he triumphs over them vv. 12b & 13b; 17-18; 23-24
   B. This "stone" becomes the foundation stone – Eph 2:20-22
   C. This "stone" shall destroy the enemies of God's Kingdom
            The stone of offense and stumbling Is 8:13-15 (*cf.* I Pet 2:7-8)
            The stone crushes kingdoms and becomes a Kingdom
               Dan 2:31-35, 44-45.

Jesus is announcing the end of the old regime and the establishment of a new Kingdom, with a new King, that shall never end. National Israel is finished with the coming of Jesus, David's Greater Son.