

## **The Story of the Renters**

By Phyllis Hostmeyer

Mark 12: 1-12 / Story #214

The people gathered to hear Jesus' next story  
About a man with a vineyard surrounded by wall.  
He dug a pit for a winepress to crush all the grapes  
And built a lookout tower that stood quite tall.

He rented the vineyard to a small group of farmers  
And while they worked the land, he left on a journey.  
At harvest he sent a servant to the renters with orders,  
"Bring some of the fruit from the vineyard to me."

But they grabbed the servant and beat him up.  
They sent him away without any grapes.  
The owner then sent another servant  
Whom they struck on the head before he escaped.

A third servant was sent to the vineyards that day  
But this one by the renters was slain.  
Man after man the owner did send.  
But all were murdered or suffered great pain.

The owner now has only one person left,  
He would send the son that he loved.  
He was certain they would show him respect.  
He would never be beaten or shoved.

But the renters knew the son would inherit;  
All of the property would be his someday.  
So, they decided to kill him, to end his life.  
So, the land would be there's and they could all stay.

Jesus then asked, "What will the owner do now?"  
The land will be given to others to own.  
He will kill all the renters without hesitation.  
Because of the violence and hatred, they've shown.

It is clear in the Scriptures  
The builders rejected a stone.  
But what became of the one they rejected?  
He became the strength, the cornerstone.

This came from the Lord

It was marvelous in his eyes.  
It did not come from man  
Who practices deceit and lies.

The leaders knew this story was against them  
So, they wanted Jesus arrested that day.  
But they feared the large crowd  
So, they left him and soon went away.