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# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3  
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Volume 11 Number 05  
Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

## Tax Season Is Here

I've been hearing a lot about this stuff called Taxes. It must be really bad stuff since people usually complain and complain about it.

However, maybe this tax stuff isn't as bad as they make it sound. Cause all the sudden I hear a lot of people saying, they can't wait to get their taxes back. Why do you have to pay the tax thingy in the first place, if all they are going to do, is send it back to you?

I also hear, most of the people that are saying they can't wait to get their "taxes back" really paid little to, no taxes in the first place.

If I understand it right, the more money you make the more they take for said taxes.

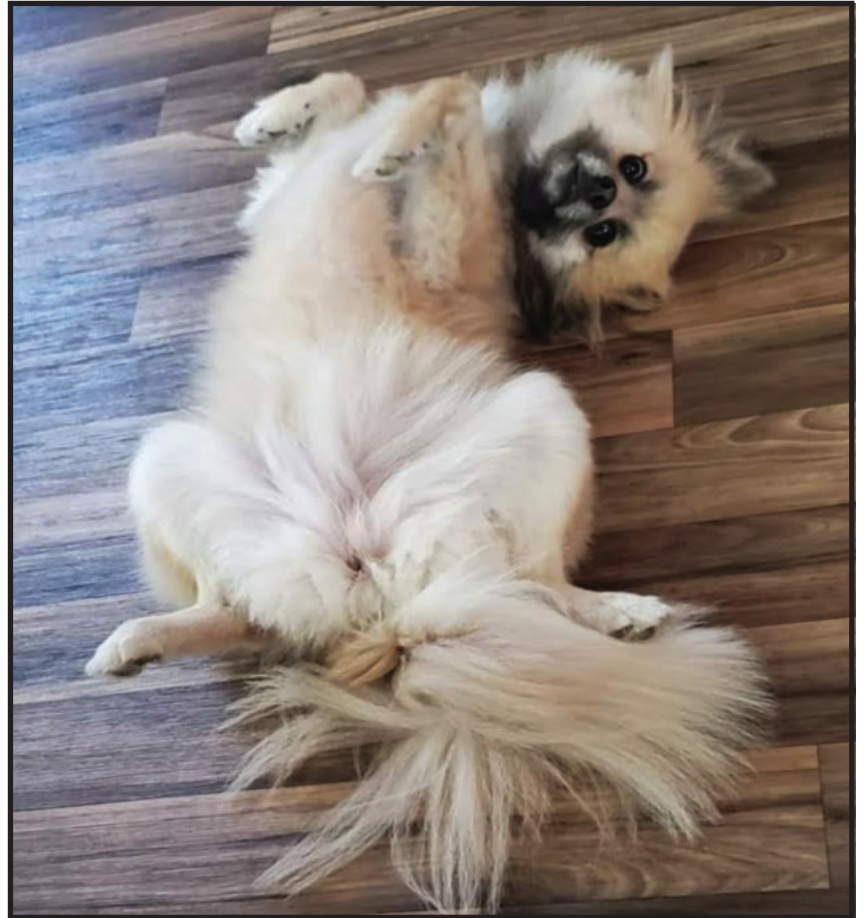
Some people pay a lot and get very little of these taxes back and some have to pay in, even more. Especially, if you're single or married with no kids. Cause the more children that you have the more you "get back." If your income is below this magic number.

So, let me get this straight: You get to claim kids as a dependent, then you get the child tax credit, and child care credit. Isn't that what they call triple dipping? That is all on top of this other thing, called earned income tax credit.

Any-woof, it is all so confusing. One would think that you could not get back, more than you paid in. Wouldn't that be what they call redistribution of wealth? Maybe I'm wrong. After all I am just a dog.

I wonder if all this means that Mimi and Pap could claim Ms Ivory and me on their taxes? They do call us their good little girls, but Mimi says that is a BIG NO-NO, it's only for people babies. That woman. She should know by now that Ms Ivory and me are their children, even though we aren't technically people. Details, details.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

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## 2025 Home energy credits



David Zubler  
Columnist

Home energy credits provide incentives to homeowners to make energy efficient upgrades.

There was a lifetime cap on the amount you could claim for the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit in previous years.

But starting in 2025, the limit changed to an annual credit. The new limit allows you to claim up to \$3,200 a year with no lifetime credit limit. There are specific allocations of up to \$600 for windows and \$500 for doors. This means you can claim credits every year and take continuous cred-

its which would exceed the previous lifetime limit.

In addition to federal credits, many states offer incentives for energy efficiency, like rebates, credits, or low-interest loans. Be sure to strategically determine the benefits of all federal and state incentives. To see what incentives are available in your area, you can use the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE).

In Tennessee, you may be eligible for TVA Energy Right Residential Efficiency Rebates or the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Also ensure that you research different financing options for your upgrades. There are several options available to help you reduce the up-front costs of the purchase.

The home energy credits include the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit and the Residential Clean Energy Credit.

Both credits now have broader categories for their covered products and improvements and allow you to claim heat pumps and biomass stoves. The credit for heat pump had been eliminated years ago but was brought beginning in 2025.

The Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit covers 30% of the cost of qualified energy-efficient improvements and include:

- Exterior doors, windows, skylights and insulation materials
- Central air conditioners, water heaters, furnaces, boilers and heat pumps

- Biomass stoves and boilers

- Home energy audits

The Residential Clean Energy Credit (previously called the Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit) offers 30% of the cost of installing qualified clean energy systems in your home. This includes products like:

- Solar, wind and geothermal power generation

- Solar water heaters

- Fuel cells

- Battery storage

To claim the credits, you can be a homeowner or a renter. The property can be a primary residence, secondary home, or rental property. However, the specific eligibility may vary depending on the credit, and the project. For example, the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit is usually available for your principal residence, and the Residential Clean Energy Credit can apply to both principal and secondary residences.

The purchases must be ENERGY STAR-certified, which indicates they meet federal energy efficiency standards. The products must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and comply with your local building codes.

To learn more about home energy efficiency and electrification rebates visit <https://cleanenergy.gov>.

*David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.*

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— In Loving Memory —

**Barbara Ann (Hall) Cromwell**



One of her favorite things to do was take Hunter Barry to watch trains. She was one of the most precious souls and loved everyone. Her beautiful memory will be carried in our hearts daily.

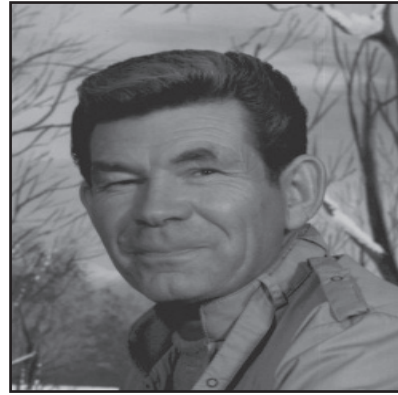
The family will have a graveside service Thursday, January 30, 2025 in the High Point Cemetery in Deer Lodge at 11:00 a.m. with Bro. Mike Hammonds.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Barbara Ann Cromwell*

Barbara Ann (Hall) Cromwell went to be with the Lord early Saturday morning, January 25, 2025.

She is survived by her husband, Bill Cromwell; three children: Bryan (Sissy) Hall, Brad (Tina) Hall, and Natasha Lynn Nichols. She was also blessed with 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**Fred Edward Griffith, 85 - Veteran**



er Kathryn Griffith; daughter Christina Griffith and wife Shelby Griffith.

He leaves behind his son Joey Griffith and wife, Marianne Griffith; daughter Sherry Kirker and husband Ben; grandson Jeremy Griffith and wife, LeeAnn Griffith; grandson Jase Griffith; sister-in-law and companion Betty Bunch; brothers George Melton, Jr., Frank Melton and sister Sandy Melton and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Fred Edward Griffith, age 85 of Petros passed away January 26, 2025 at Roane Medical Center in Harriman.

Fred retired from the Brush Mountain Prison after 30 years of service. He also worked in the Coal Mines. He was a member of the Petros Baptist Church and was baptized April of 1951 at the age of 12 years. He was a Master Mason on May 16, 1964 and Black Diamond Lodge #625.

The family will receive friends Thursday, January 30, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with a Masonic Service and the funeral at 6:00 p.m. with Dr. Jim West officiating. Graveside services will be Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Petros Cemetery in Petros with full Military Honors provided by American Legion Post 149.

Fred enjoyed hunting, fishing, digging ginseng and picking black berries.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Fred Edward Griffith.*

He is preceded in death by his father George Melton; moth-

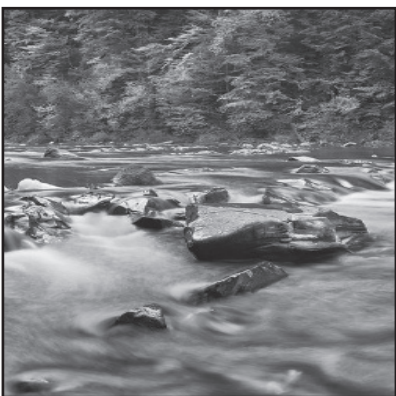
**Psalm 86:4-5**

**4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**

**5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.**

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

**Charles Junior Jennings, 60**



nings; siblings Juanita Wagner and partner Chester Parks, Barbara (Clyde) Sharp, Virginia McCann, Tina Hodge, and Francis McCann and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with a memorial service to follow 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Anthony Pemberton officiating.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Charles Junior Jennings.*

Charles Junior Jennings, age 60 passed away at his home on January 27, 2025.

He is preceded in death by his mother Geneva Jennings; mother-in-law Wanda Hensley; father-in-law J.K. Bowlin.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years Charlotte Jennings; children Angela (Patrick) Ritts, Sandra Jennings; grandchildren Maxine Alley Mae Jen-

**Parlin Ooten, 87**



Tony, Trent, David, Teddy, J.T., Wade, Savannah, Carolyn, Destiny, Selena, Holly, Mahaliah, and Trisha. 17 great grandkids: Bailey, Katelyn, Ashli, Gracia, Shelby, Sawyer, Blake, Pasley, Saphira, Nehveah, Braxton, Kasen, Carson, Myha, Jaxon, Braiden and Aiden 2 great great grandkids: Iry, and Waylon Also several nieces and nephews.

Parlin Ooten, age 87 of Lancing, passed away on Monday January 28, 2025, at the Life Care of Morgan County. Parlin was preceded in death by his Parents: Clyde and Althea Ooten, wife: Carolyn Ooten, daughters: Melissa Duncan and Patty Tinch, infant son: Teddy Ooten, brothers: Rod Ooten, Cletus Ooten, Parnell Ooten, Lewis Ooten and Arlen Ooten, sisters: Minnie Hall and Mable Webb, brother-in-laws: Kenneth Lyons and Dale Lyons, son-in-law Sonny Duncan, also several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be Saturday, February 1, 2025, 11am at Greenwood Chapel Cemetery, Deer Lodge, with Bro. Robert Gibson officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Parlin Ooten.

Parlin by his children. Sons: Tracy (Rhonda) Ooten of Lancing Eddie Ooten of Jamestown Cheyenne Ooten of Jamestown Fred Ooten of Jamestown Daughter: Angela (Darin) Draughn of Jamestown Son-in-law: Ernie Tinch 16 grandkids: Rocky, Adam, Dewayne,





## Historically Speaking

### Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: The Manhattan Project Underway, Part 3

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Barbara Scollin, grandniece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols continues her series on his life.

\*\*\*

Ample reasons, most notably leadership skills, personality traits and qualifications, led to choosing General (then Colonel) Kenneth D. Nichols as Deputy District Engineer and subsequently as District Engineer of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED). In this capacity he had supervision of the research and development connected with, and the design, construction and operation of all plants required to produce plutonium-239 and uranium-235, including the construction of the towns of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Richland, Washington.

The responsibility of his position was massive as he oversaw a workforce of both military and civilian personnel of approximately 125,000; his Oak Ridge office became the center of the wartime atomic energy's activities. He also was responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

In this ninth installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we learn of methods used by Colonel Nichols and Brig General Groves to create efficiency and teamwork in the Manhattan Project, their grueling travel schedules and obtaining a AAA priority rating.

With the chain of command established by September 1943 (see 8th article), a leadership pattern developed within the entire Manhattan Project. This led to efficiency and was achieved as Nichols explains: “[Brig] General Groves’ ... methods of working are to violate all channels of organization. I think I have the same tendency. We both used the same methods, and the project was largely decentralized with the idea individuals on the sites would have a great deal of authority, but if they had any question, they could contact either me or General Groves concerning directives.

“We had practically no written directives. The system of operation was primarily that if there was a problem or a need for a decision either General Groves or I or Colonel Marshall initially, or all three or any combination, would visit the site, get together the necessary people, sit around a table long enough to arrive at the decision and when the decision was made, why the local representative was expected to carry it out.

“The contractors did an outstanding job because we made a point of, in every case, seeing that they put their outstanding men on the job. In fact, when we decided on a contractor and the scope of the work, it included the individuals that would be in charge and what authority they would have.

“In every case, either General Groves or Colonel Marshall or I or all of us had complete access right to the top of that company ... whenever we wanted to resolve anything in regard to that particular company ... that was our contact. [The contractors] all realized that this thing had to succeed, or they’d be spending a good many

years after the war trying to explain why their part didn’t.

“I would arrange to meet with General Groves at some location or in Washington at least once a week. We both were traveling about 4 or 5 days a week covering slightly different orbits but covering the whole project on an almost week to week basis or at least once a month – that was all important. For example, I was at Oak Ridge every week and also New York City [where 7 offices were located] every week and then in addition would visit two or three other places. The channels were never formalized.

“The administration was generally done completely at Oak Ridge although ... by my vis-

only time I ever accompanied [Groves] to Los Alamos was during my March 1943 visit. Most of my meetings with Oppenheimer took place at Oak Ridge, Berkeley, New York, Chicago or Washington, when problems arose.”

Beginning with the first secret project meeting with Marshall in June 1942, Nick’s travel diary reflects extensive travel throughout the United States throughout the war. Nichols explains, “Beginning with the trip to [Elza] Tennessee, the pattern of our method of operation began to emerge. On my part, from July 1942 to the end of the war I was destined to travel over ten thousand miles a month by train, commercial airplane and bus.

“Only in April 1945, when the project neared fruition and time became even more critical, did I obtain use of an Air Corps B-25 bomber to facilitate travel. From the start, our philosophy was to go where the work was being done and make decisions as needed on the spot. Our local area staff and contractors then formalized these decisions in writing or in the form of plans and specifications as necessary.”

As initially decided by Colonel Marshall and later instructed by the Secretary of War, Nichols and Groves rarely traveled on the same airplane or train for security and safety reasons. Nichols recalls, “I was on a plane en route to Chicago when Groves boarded it at an intermediate stop. Looking for a seat, he saw me, sat down next to me, and said, ‘You are violating Stimson’s instructions. Why didn’t you get off the plane when you saw me come aboard?’”

Of most importance to streamlining the Manhattan Project’s work was the AAA designation given to General Groves. Colonel Marshall had begun the paperwork needed for the priority, but Groves along with Dr. Vannevar Bush worked miracles to overcome wartime obstacles in securing the rating. Nichols recounts that Donald Nelson, head of the War Production Board: “... signed the letter Groves had drawn up, which stated: ‘I am in full accord with the prompt delegation of power by the Army and Navy Munitions Board through you, to the District Engineer, Manhattan District, to assign an AAA rating, or whatever lesser rating will be sufficient, to those items the delivery of which, in his opinion, cannot otherwise be secured in time for the successful prosecution of the work under his charge.’”

Colonel Nichols now had clear delineation of command and the highest priority rating for procurement of staff and materials needed for the Manhattan Engineer District. Jackie and Nick moved to New York upon his designation as District Engineer. Soon another move was in store for them.

Next up: Building Oak Ridge “from scratch,” Part 1

Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bianka J. Adams, Alisa Whitley, Douglas J. Wilson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History; Diane Gulley; Gerald A. Potts; and Bruce W. Scollin for their assistance with this article.

\*\*\*

Thank you, Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of General Kenneth D. Nichols, for your continuing research and sharing such detailed insights into the actual operational activities of the Manhattan Project. Your great uncle was uniquely able to describe what went on as he was personally involved in most all aspects of the amazing accomplishment.



Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols’ Identification Card

Dr. Arthur Holly Compton’s University of Chicago Metallurgical Laboratory

Courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of History

iting New York once a week and sitting down the Area Engineer and giving him all the necessary approvals he needed verbally [New York administration was thus handled] ... If it were of a major type [of problem] that involved General Groves to get into, we would arrange for him to meet with us or with whatever contact it involved.”

Throughout the war, Colonel Nichols traveled multiple times a week to check on his four main sites of responsibility:

- Clinton Engineer Works, Oak Ridge TN,
- Hanford Engineer Works, Hanford, WA,
- New York – seven offices including material procurement, and,
- Laboratories throughout the country, including 22 university labs most importantly University of Chicago, Columbia University, and University of California.

In addition, Nichols traveled to the offices of company and corporation headquarters as needed. Finally, Colonel Nichols traveled to Los Alamos NM to carry out his administration responsibilities. He explained: “Groves made it clear that he personally would do all the direct supervision of the [Los Alamos] work. However, he indicated that I should keep myself informed by visiting Los Alamos or by meeting with Oppenheimer elsewhere concerning progress and coordinating technical specifications for U-235 and plutonium.

“In addition, I was to work out with Oppenheimer the means to determine the percent of enrichment of U-235 that would be the optimum compromise between possible production rates, which was my responsibility and bomb efficiency, which was Oppenheimer’s field.

“At the same time, the [MED] district was to support Los Alamos in acquiring many unusual and rare materials and see that all expenditures under the University of California contract for operating the laboratory were properly audited. Contrary to the 1982 BBC television series... the



# Luke Chapter 20



**Melvin Howard**

They spake, saying unto him---These chief men, who were now becoming bolder enemies of Jesus, asked him “by what authority doest thou these things?” They are attempting to get Jesus to make some declaration by which they can condemn him; they are not wanting the truth. They had rejected the evidence that Jesus had given them; they had ignored the miracles that he worked, even the one of raising Lazarus from the dead; they now ask for the authority under

which he acted. Jesus had given the highest authority and had presented the strongest proofs. He had been with them during which he had taught and worked miracles, they still asked for proof and authority for what he was doing. He answered by giving them a question as to the authority of John the Baptist. He asked: “Was it from heaven, or from men?” That is, was John’s authority to baptize from men or was it from God? John had called upon them to repent and to believe on the Messiah who was to come; where did he get his authority to demand repentance and baptism? This question put them in a dilemma. This question threw the responsibility back on them as to the source of authority; John had testified of Jesus; he had pointed him out to the people; what can they do now with respect to this question?

5:7 And they reasoned with themselves,---They saw the dilemma and felt the clutches of it. It seems that they went aside and reasoned “with themselves.” The original for “reasoned” is used only here in the New Testament, and it not only means “with themselves,” or “together,” but denotes a very close conference. If they, they said, should say that John’s baptism was “from heaven,” then he would reply: “Why did ye not believe him?” They had rejected John’s baptism, and to admit that John’s baptism was from heaven would be to admit that they had rejected the authority of God. On the other hand, if they should deny God as the authority of John’s baptism, they would be antagonizing the people for “they are persuaded that John was a prophet.” They were anxious to retain the favor of the people; they must seek some way to get the people to turn against Jesus.

v. 8 And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I---They had convicted themselves of moral dishonesty; they had shown that they did not want the truth. They were not wanting to know by what authority Jesus taught, preached the gospel, cleansed the temple, and worked miracles; they must have known, but would not acknowledge. It was unless for Jesus to give them further evidence. If they rejected John, they would reject Jesus; if they would not believe John’s testimony in his favor (Jn. 1:15, 29-36; 5:33-36), they would not believe that which Jesus would offer for himself.

Parable of the husbandmen (20:9-18) “and he began to speak unto the people this parable”: Parallel records of this parable are found in Matt. 21:23-46; Mk. 12:1-12. This parable is similar to the parable in Isa. 5:1-7 “He began to speak unto the people this parable”; this cannot mean that he spoke only at this time in parable, neither can it mean that he “began” to speak this parable at this time, but finished it later. Luke has all of the essential features of the parable but his record contains fewer of the particulars, especially the description of the vineyard. Luke is the only writer of the parable that mentions the time in which the lord of the vineyard was absent. The details of the parable are simple enough; a man planted a vineyard and rented it to others called husbandmen; the man then went into another country and remained there “for a long time.” The vineyard is planted, rented to others, a body of laborers, who are to pay their rental out of the products.

V. 10---And at the season he sent unto the husbandmen a servant,---It was customary then to rent vineyards and collect the rent. “At the season” means the vintage time or the time when the fruit ripened and the harvest gathered. The harvest of the vineyard was converted into wine. The landlord sent his servant to receive his share of the product. Those who had rented the vineyard “beat him” and “sent him away empty.” They scourged the servants to intimidate him so that he would not come back; he was sent away without

any part of that which belonged to the landlord. Evidently they thought that they would get to keep the rent which should have been given to the owner.

11, 12 And he sent yet another servant:---It is not known whether the first servant returned to the master and reported all that had been done; but the landlord sent another servant, and instead of honestly paying over all that was due the owner, they abused him shamefully, and beat him as they had the other servant, and sent him away empty. They treated this servant even worse than they treated the first one; finally a third servant was sent “and him also they wounded, and cast him forth.” Matthew records that they “took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.” (Matt. 21:35).

V. 13 And the lord of the vineyard said,---The owner of the vineyard saw that the wicked men to whom he had rented his vineyard cared nothing for his servants; they had shamefully treated them, beating and killing some of them; so the owner thought that they would surely respect his son. He was an only son, and is described as “my beloved son.” If there was left in them any respect for the master, they surely would respect his only son. The owner of the vineyard dearly loved his son and felt that others ought to respect and love him; but he was to be disappointed in this.

V. 14 But when the husbandmen saw him,---When the husbandmen saw the son coming, they reasoned among themselves and said: “This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.” (Mk. 12:7.) They thought that by destroying the heir they would then claim the vineyard. These wicked husbandmen reached the climax of their crime by murdering the son. They thought they would own the vineyard instead of being tenants. Jesus thus outlines clearly and emphatically the conduct of these Jews; they were planning to do just as Jesus here describes these tenants of doing.

V. 15-16 And they cast him forth out of the vineyard,---They killed the son. Their crime grew worse; they began by beating and shamefully treating the servants, but have ended in killing the son and the heir; they began by withholding the rent of the vineyard from its proper owner and ended by an attempt to seize the vineyard; they began by robbing the owner of the vineyard and they ended in an attempt to take the vineyard from him. What therefore will the lord of the vineyard do unto them?” Jesus answered this question; there could be but one answer to it; he would destroy them and take the vineyard away from them and give it to others who were more worthy. Jesus had asked the question to give point to his parable, and according to Matthew, those who heard him answered his question. “They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those miserable men, and will let out the vineyard unto other husbandmen, who shall render him the fruits in their seasons. (Matt. 21:41).

V. 17 But he looked upon them, and said,---Here Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22. They had said that his parable could not be true, or that it was impossible, and Jesus referred them to this scripture, and asked to what then does it refer? Peter quotes the same psalm in 1 Pet. 2:4-7. “The stone,” a stone, one building, was later found to be “the head of the corner.” This has been applied to Christ in prophesy and in fulfillment. (Isa. 28:16; Eph. 2:20.) It is strange that these leaders could have always referred this scripture to the Messiah, yet did not see that it was fulfilled in the case of Jesus who was rejected by the scribes and priests (Acts 4:11.) Though the Jews rejected Jesus, yet God has made him the headstone of his spiritual temple, uniting both Jews and Gentiles in himself. (Gal. 3:28.)

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo  
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