

*There was a landowner who leased his land to tenants. His slaves, and eventually his son, are sent later to collect the produce.*

*Not only did the tenants not turn over the produce, but they beat the slaves and killed the son.*

*The tenants are the chief priests and elders themselves and those who have gone before them. The slaves are the prophets, Jesus himself is the son and the new tenants are the Christian church made up of Jews and Gentiles alike.*

*This parable is not simply the rejection of Jesus but an ongoing challenge to all to whom the kingdom is given.*

*The landowner still seeks the appropriate produce in due season - fruits of justice and righteousness .*

*What kind of fruit does God find in us, in his Church, or in our society?  
God loves to find fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,  
gentleness and self-control.*

*God loves to see justice, mercy, right living, purity and honesty.*

*May we each grow a bumper crop of such fruits that will bring blessing and healing to those we meet each day.*