

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 21:33-46

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A, RCL

³³[Jesus said] “ **Listen** [ἀκούσατε, **akóúsate**] to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; **come** [δεῦτε, **deûte**], let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. [NRSV⁸⁹]

21:33

ἀκούσατε, **akóúsate**; *vb*: *aor act imperative 2nd pers pl* from ἀκούω:

translations: **listen** [NRSV⁸⁹, NRSVue; Albright & Mann], **listen to** [NGEINT, NIV¹¹, NJB], also **hear** [ESV, NAB, NKJV; Filson], **oíd** [IAdNT]

21:38

δεῦτε, **deûte**; *vb*: *pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from δεύτε:

translations: **come** [NRSV⁸⁹, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV¹¹, NKJV, NRSVue; Filson], **come on** [NJB], also **venid** [IAdNT]; not translated in Albright & Mann

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