

The Parable of the Tenants - Let's Go

Mark 12:1-12

11-21-21

I. God Has a Plan.

1. God of detail.

Mark 12:1 – *“And he began to speak to them in parables. ‘A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower and leased it to tenants and went into another country.’”*

2. God of seasons.

Mark 12:2 – *“When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard.”*

II. God is Patient with People.

Mark 12:3-8 – *“And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.”*

1. God's patience is extended.

2 Peter 3:9 – *“...but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*

Genesis 3:8, 9 – *“...the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord...but the Lord God called the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’”*

2. God's patience is exploited.

Repeated commitment to sinful choices leads us into further depravity!

III. Choices Have Consequences.

Mark 12:9 – *“What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others.”*

1. He comes.
2. He destroys.

The destruction we are looking at in this passage is national destruction, not individual destruction.

3. He gives to others.

IV. God the Cornerstone is in Control.

Mark 12:10-12 – *“Have you not read this Scripture: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.”*

Psalm 118:22-23 – *“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.”*

Going Deeper This Week

1. Why did Jesus use parables as a teaching method? Why did He use a parable in this case? (See Matthew 13:10-12, Romans 2:5)
2. God blessed Israel, but that nation did not honor God. Can the same be said of our country? Of your church or a denomination? What signs do you see that explain your answer?
3. If your attempts to get people to fulfill their contractual obligations had been violently refused, what would you do? What was the logic of the Father in the parable in sending his only son? What was the motivation for God the Father to send His only Son?
4. What did the tenant farmers think they would gain from killing the landlord’s son? What did the Jewish leaders hope to gain by killing Jesus? What did they in fact accomplish? (Acts 2:23, Mark 10:45)
5. Why do we as Christ followers sometimes resist radical obedience? What do we miss out on when we resist? (John 14:15, 15:14)
6. What do secular people say when asked about judgement and hell? What do you think is necessary for them to accept this truth? (Mark 1:15, Luke 13:3, Acts 3:19, Hebrews 10:26, Romans 6:23)
7. How did the Jewish leaders react when they lost their debate with Jesus? What persons do you know are now facing hatred or violence because of Christ? Pray for them this week.
8. The Sanhedrin postponed their persecution of Jesus because they feared the crowd (12:12). Is there any time lately when the fear of man hurt your obedience to Christ? Pray for one another to be both loving and confident in Christ.