

Title: Don't Reject Christ

Passage: Mark 12:1-12

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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. When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. 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. What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. 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.

Introduction:

This parable shows the tendency to sin even in our own lives.

- don't feel self-righteous pointing at others
- But also consider how you yourself is part of the story.

Context

- Jesus entered Jerusalem and cleared the Temple and dialoguing with the religious leaders. Jesus then moves to teaching in parables.

EXPOSITION

Overview

Character of God

- God's hope for His people
- God's kindness
- God's severity
- God's ultimate victory

I. God's hope for His people

Mark 12:1-2

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. When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard.

Vineyard

- Symbol of Israel
- God planted Israel into the land of Canaan
- Refers to Song of Vineyard in Isaiah 5

Isaiah 5:7

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower

- the property owner took meticulous care to set up the vineyard to be productive
- God took great care to set Israel to be productive (to be a blessing to all the nations)

Tenants

- Symbol = spiritual leaders of Israel
- But the tenants greatly mis-used what they were given.
- Present Day Relevance: misusing God's Word for one's own benefits.
 - Result? Standards of morality have been lowered due to the sin in one's heart.
- Application: You have been given blessing upon blessing. You have been given the testimony of the Bible. You need to be faithful tenants and stewards with what God has given you. Be faithful with what God has entrusted you.

Luke 12:48b

Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

II. God's kindness for His own. (v.2-8)

Mark 12:2-5

When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. 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.

Hebrews 1:1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

Hebrews 11:35b-38

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

- prophets were repeated mis-treated and tortured (ex: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, John the Baptist)

Matthew 23:29, 33-34

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!..You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town

Ezekiel 34:1-4 (calling out leaders immorality)

The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.

Mark 12:6-8

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.

a beloved son

- Unique person: ultimate representation of landlord.
- Pointed to Jesus

Luke 9:35-36a

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

But those tenants said to one another, This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.'

- foolish hearts leads to foolish behavior.

Landlord's forbearance

He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

- God's character: His steadfast loving kindness. His continuous pursuit of people no matter how much they reject Him.
- Charles Spurgeon: "*If you reject him, he answers you with tears; if you wound him, he bleeds out cleansing; if you kill him, he dies to redeem; if you bury him, he rises again to bring resurrection. Jesus is love made manifest.*"
- This show's part of God's plan to love.

III. God's Severity (v.9)

Mark 12:9

What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others.

What will the owner of the vineyard do?

- God's plan of salvation is not limitless. Judgment is coming.

Luke 10:16

"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

Luke 13:2-5

And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Psalms 75:2-3, 6-7

At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity. When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars...For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another."

Romans 2:5

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

IV. God's Ultimate Victory (v.10-12)

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.

Psalms 118:22-23 (Messianic Psalm)

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

The stone that the builders rejected

- Rejection of Christ

Has become the cornerstone

- The center of everything. Remove Jesus, everything crumbles. Jesus truly is sovereign and above all.

Ephesians 2:19-21

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

- God's plan brings glory to Himself

Application

Parable Meaning: Tenant's lived in self-centered world without any awareness of God and having false sense of security. Removing God removes guilt in one's conscience but

- Question: what exactly offends you?
- Think through what you hear. Are you deceiving yourself or hearing the truth? Be humble to hear the truth.
- Does God bring about justice? Maybe not now but ultimately there will be judgment. All that is present is not as it seems.
- Today: Judgment has already come in many forms.

If a Christian, look at the world with compassion.

- remember you are a Christian not because you are better than others but out of God's grace and mercy.
- You were not more faithful or better than any other people.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Colossians 3:12

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

If you are not a Christian, don't reject Christ but rather acknowledge Him as your Lord and Savior.

Luke 13:3

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Romans 10:9-10

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.