

June 8th 2008: Parable of the Tenants: Mark 12:1-12

This parable....the saddest that Jesus ever told.....His own story
It is also a parable.....directed at a specific group.....(chief priests.....)
..and contains for them....**unexpected twist**

- **These men were by now firmly entrenched as the enemies of Jesus**
At this point.....been fired up by what He did in the temple.....& were no doubt
→angry &.....because he had just won the debating contest.....

So when he began talking about.....would have perhaps relaxed a little
Believing that He may at last have been speaking about something they could agree on

For they recognized His description of.....as coming straight out of **Isaiah 5:1-2....**

- **Here the vineyard is Israel** And when Jesus said.....
"Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went on a journey"
- **They would have reckoned.....**
making a reference to the times.....God had placed Israel into enemy hands.....
Like the Romans.....allowed by God to take charge of His vineyard for a time...

Then Jesus said something.....made them realize.....

He was talking about....Jewish leaders down thro the agesincluding them:
12:2-5.....

"At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed."

- **You see the** term "servants who were sent" in the OT....was a reference to the Prophets....sent by God to His people.....**Particularly** to the religious leaders
AND

It's interesting to note.....that the quote He used in the temple → 11:17

"But you have made it a den of robbers." Came from Jerem 7:11 **&7:25-26**
"From the time your forefathers left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets. But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their forefathers."

In a few words Jesus changed the whole intent of the parable.....as far as
Suddenly they realized.....that in His story they.....and their forefathers
...were the tenants →THE Badies **That Jesus** was speaking against them
(A fact Mark mentions in v12)

(SURVIVOR...blindsider at Tribal Council--Well these guys had been Blindsided!!)

- **And it gets worst**

For Jesus goes from them beating and killing the prophets
To them deliberately killing the Owners much loved son
And then desecrating his body

Did these men understand what He was saying?

Well look back to Mark 10:33-34.....

- **& In John 10** these same Jewish leaders attempt to stone Him for blasphemy
Jesus says to them →John 10:36
"Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?"

- **They knew what He claimed for Himself**

Indeed Mark tells us that at His trial the High Priest asked
Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One ? And when Jesus said: I am

- **They knew exactly what Jesus was saying in this parable**

And that's why afterwards they looked for a way to arrest Him

But they missed the key element of the parable
The element of Judgment

Up to this point says Jesus.....the Owner has been ridiculously patient & merciful
And because of that mercy they think he is weak
That they can take evrything.....Keep all His fruit.....Destroy His Son.....and not

Now if a person believes in an Almighty God who created.....Who is the Owner
And also believes that God is good....holy..... **against** every semblance of unholliness
Then they must logically believe.....that one day He will judge.....

- **And in fact these Religious leaders believed that**

But they thought it would happen to everyone else.....and not to them

Jesus said in v9

"What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others."

- **God had given them so much**.....and the fruit He wanted
Was that they loved Him as their God with all

But they loved themselves more.....**Building their little kingdoms**

- **And while they stayed in that rebellion**.....Judgment would one day come

- **The problem is that the same human nature in them**

That caused them to give God less than He demands.....is still in us

Not one of us can say that we give God 100% obedience

That have truly loved Him with a perfect love.....Or loved our neighbour perfectly

We are not perfect.....and therefore we can never give God the perfection

- **And surely**.....because God is Just.....He must judge all with the same judgment

- **That's why the words Jesus spoke next.....are life giving words:**

In Mark 12:11 He quotes from Ps 118:21-22

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Then according to Luke's account He added a quote based on Isaiah 8:14

20:18 ***"Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."***

- **The rejected Son becomes the Cornerstone of the new Temple**....
that connects us with God's forgiveness

OR The Rock of Judgment.....that carries out the sentence

- **The judgment of a just God is due all**.....But not all will suffer it
For the stone rejected.....can become for all
the cornerstone or firm foundation

*(We have a game.....made up of little magnets in see through plastic casings
They are moved over a board under which there are other magnets
The magnet in the casing is coloured red on one side and white on the other
Depending on the polarity of the magnet under the board it will either be red
or*

*The foundation underneath makes all the difference.
So it is with us)*

- **So our initial challenge**.....is to be sure that our lives are founded upon Jesus
To know for sure that we have claimed Him as our Saviour

- **The second challenge relates to that fruit He still expects from us**
The fruit of love.....The fruit of holiness.....The fruit of Praise

Such fruit that only comes when we ask the Holy Spirit to stay in charge

- **The third challenge relates to the vineyard**
that the Lord has asked us to work in for Him

For me it's mainly my ministry here.....

For you it may be your family...work....group
Your area of Christian service

Are we producing the fruit there.....that He delights to receive?

Pastor Ron Clarke from Tasmania writing for John Mark ministries says: