

The Owner of the Vineyard
Mark 12:1-17

Each of the people we meet in the parable [of the Tenants] teaches us something about living for God. The long-suffering landowner stands for God and teaches us how patient God is in waiting for us to repent. The planted vineyard stands for God's people and teaches us that God wants us to bear good spiritual fruit. The wicked tenants stand for Israel's spiritual leaders and teach us what kind of leadership God loves: leadership that worships God's lordship, honors God's Word, and recognizes that God's people are not there for their own benefit, but for the greater glory of God. The suffering servants represent the prophets, and they teach us to expect hostility to the gospel and persecution for preaching in the name of Christ. Ryken

- I. The "Parable of the Tenants" was told by Jesus to help us understand the continual effort God made to draw Israel unto himself for salvation. Like with the Jews of Jesus' time, God is making the same persistent effort to draw the gentiles unto himself for eternal life through his Son, Jesus Christ. Israel was planted and cultivated by God to be a nation that would be a strong witness of the reality of his existence to the world. The rejection and murder of his Son by the Jews moved God to "**temporarily**" give the gentile church the same responsibility to draw people to him by how well we live and express the gospel. He expect us to take that responsibility seriously as we wait to be called up into the clouds to be with him.

Mark 12:1-9

Isa. 5:1-7

Psalms 80:8-9

Jer. 7:25-26

1 Kings 18:13

Rom. 11:11-29

Rom. 11:11,25-27 *Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the gentiles to make Israel envious. 25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, 26 and so all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. 27 And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."*

- II. Jesus is the cornerstone of our salvation. In other words, he is the foundation that our lives and his church are to be built upon. Our salvation means that we have become living stones that Jesus uses to build his spiritual house. He builds according to his standard not ours. Our responsibility, if we expect to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices pleasing to him, is to make sure we are living by his standard of truth so that our lives align with his. Otherwise, we build according to our standard, which puts us danger of having our works burned up at the judgment (1 Cor. 3:10-15).

Mark 12:10-12
1 Peter 2:4-10
Psalm 118:22-23
Matt. 13:23

“Since ancient times, builders have used cornerstones in their construction projects. A cornerstone was the principal stone, usually placed at the corner of an edifice, to guide the workers in their course. The cornerstone was usually one of the largest, the most solid, and the most carefully constructed of any in the edifice. The Bible describes Jesus as the cornerstone that His church would be built upon. He is foundational. Once the cornerstone was set, it became the basis for determining every measurement in the remaining construction; everything was aligned to it. As the cornerstone of the building of the church, Jesus is our standard of measure and alignment. ” gotquestions.org

Ephesians 2:19-21 *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.*

Isa. 28:16-17 *So this is what the sovereign Lord says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; and the one who trusts in him will never be dismayed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line;*

- III. We live in this world as aliens and strangers longing for a better country, a heavenly one (Heb. 11). Our allegiance is to Christ and his Word alone with the understanding that part of that, is to obey the governing authorities he has put in place for our good. The question is, when is it permissible for us to disobey the law of the land?

Mark 12:13-17
Rom. 13:1-2

Acts 5:27-29 *... “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.*