

**Refuge City Church — August 2, 2020**  
**“The Gospel of Mark” (Mark 12:1-12)**

**Scripture Reading (Mark 12:1-12)**

**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** When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. **3** And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. **4** Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. **5** And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. **6** He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ **7** But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ **8** And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. **9** What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. **10** Have you not read this Scripture: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; **11** this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?” **12** 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.

**Verse 1**

**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.

- **REMINDER:** What is a ‘Parable’?
  - Similitudes, Allegories...An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
    - But these are more than just stories. They are to get at the heart of everything we believe and who we are in God’s kingdom.
  - Spiritual truth walking hand in hand with daily living.
    - Parables are designed to penetrate the audiences heart, and therefore bring about a response.
- The man = God
- The vineyard = Israel (referred to as vines in scripture); also = kingdom of God.
- The tenants = Israel’s leadership
  - **Jeremiah 2:21**, “Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?”
  - **Isaiah 5:1-2**, “Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.”
    - What may be the beginning of the story that Jesus now finishes.

## Verses 2-5

**2** When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. **3** And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. **4** Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. **5** And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed.

- “When the season came...”

- In the proper circumstances that God determines, He expects there to be fruit, and will collect what is rightfully His.
- So he sent his ‘servants’ **[prophets and judges]** to collect what belonged to Him.
  - Some servants they beat and removed, others they killed, others mocked.
  - **2 Chronicles 24:20-21**, “Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.’ But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the Lord.”
    - Zechariah stoned to death
  - **2 Chronicles 36:15-16**, “The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers **[patience & grace]**, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy.”
    - Messengers and Prophets mocked
  - **Nehemiah 9:26**, “Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies.”

## Verses 6-9

**6** He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ **7** But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ **8** And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. **9** What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others.

- The ‘tenants’ **[Israel’s rulers]** even rejected the owner’s son **[God’s Son]**!
  - Who, culturally speaking, was the rightful heir to the vineyard. It was his property by right.
  - **[vs. 7]** They knew it was the Son!

- The fact that they killed the son and threw him off the property signified that they didn't respect the owner, his son, and decided to usurp control over the property.
- The proclaimed leaders of Israel, had time and again rejected God and those He sent to bring correction.
  - **[vs. 9: They answer correctly] Matthew 21:41**, "They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.'"
- Ultimately, this parable serves as kind of a fourth declaration of the rejection and death of Jesus.

### Verses 10-11

**10** Have you not read this Scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; **11** this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

- Jesus, once again, brings the people back to Scripture. **[Triumphal entry/Hosanna]**
  - **Psalms 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."
- In what could have been the 'capstone project' for Israel, Jesus now becomes the foundational piece upon which God's church is established.
  - Scripture the Apostles would continue to use in their ministry.
    - **[after healing of a lame man] Acts 4:10-12**, "let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
    - **1 Peter 2:4-7**, "As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'"
    - **Ephesians 2:18-21**, "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 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.”

- Everything, all of life, hinges on Jesus!
  - **Revelation 22:13**, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
    - Upon him all things were built [**creation; the church**]. Unto Him, all things belong.
    - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

### Verse 12

**12** 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.

- The Pharisees perceived that Jesus had spoken about them, and they were right. But the time had not yet come...
  - **Luke 20:18**, “Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”
    - **QUOTE:** “If you do not hear the well beloved Son of God, you have refused your last hope. He is God’s ultimatum. Nothing remains when Christ is refused. No one else can be sent; heaven itself contains no further messenger. If Christ be rejected, hope is rejected.” (C.H. Spurgeon)
  - Commit your life to Jesus, and you will be broken of your pride, selfishness, greed, envy, lust, and the chains binding you to sin will be broken.
  - Reject Jesus, and you will be crushed under the weight of His righteous judgement for all eternity.

### Response/Conclusion

- How does this relate to us today?
  - It is a call to repentance! It is a call to prayer! It is a call to forgiveness!
  - It is a call to fall under the authority of Jesus Christ, and Him alone.