The Vineyard and the Rejected Stone

Mark 12:1-12

Pastor Matt Ross ■ Grace Bible Church ■ October 25, 2026

"Even though Jesus had been as clear as possible in his parable and in his direct words of judgement, the chief priests and the Pharisees refused to see the obvious."
Albert Mohler, The Explosive Power of Jesus' Parables

Central Truth: To reject God the Son is to reject God the Father who sent Him.

- **The landowner** represents God.
- **The vineyard** represents Israel.
- **The servants** represent the prophets God sent to Israel.
- **The beloved son** represents Jesus Christ.
- **The tenants** represent the leaders who rejected God's messengers and Jesus.

1. The patience of God (v. 1-5)

- The landowner repeatedly sends servants despite the tenants' persistent rebellion.

Application: *Receive God's Word humbly rather than hardening your heart against it.*

2. The love of God (v. 6-8)

- The landowner sends his beloved son, even after the mistreatment of his servants.

Application: *Receive Jesus as the beloved Son submitting to His authority & trusting Him.*

3. The judgement of God (v. 9-12)

- The landowner acts against the rebellious tenants & entrusts the vineyard to others.

Application: *Don't persist in rejecting Jesus because those who refuse Him face judgement.*

Mark 12:1-12
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.

Discussion Questions

These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One of the best ways to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!

1. **The patience of God:**
   - Why did Jesus use parables as a teaching method? Why did He use a parable in this particular case?

   - What does the landowner's repeated sending of servants teach us about God's patience with rebellious people?

   - Can you think of a time when God used Scripture, a sermon, or another believer to correct or redirect you? How did you respond?

2. **The love of God:**
   - What does the sending of the landowner's beloved son teach us about the significance of Jesus compared with the servants who came before Him?

   - What is one area of your life where you need to trust Jesus more fully or submit to His authority?

3. **The judgement of God:**
   - Why do you think the tenants believed they could reject the owner's authority without facing consequences? What does this reveal about the human heart?

   -What does this passage teach us about the seriousness of rejecting Jesus and His authority?

   - In light of this passage, what needs to change in the way you respond to Jesus? Is He really your Lord, and not merely someone whose teachings you admire?