

JESUS CHRIST, THE CORNERSTONE (Mk. 12:1-12)

March 2, 2025

TEXT—MK. 12:1-12

MAIN IDEA—Jesus Christ is the only foundation mankind can build upon to be in right relationship with God.

MEMORY VERSES—Ps. 118:22-23

THE PARABLE (Mk. 12:1-9)—

Though the Lord Jesus had previously exposed the vain worship and limited authority of the religious leaders of Israel, He wasn't done. He uses this parable to bring a stinging indictment against them for their rejection of God's Son (which is who He is). **Mt. 13:44; Mt. 13:10-13**

V1—This parable uses an image of everyday life in Israel to illustrate a spiritual principle. The owner of the vineyard takes several steps to insure the success of his vineyard (V1-2): planting the vineyard (in order to receive a future harvest); building a wall & digging a pit under the wine press (to receive juice from crushed grapes); built a tower (to protect the vineyard and shelter the farmers who rented this space).

V2-5—The behaviors of the tenant farmer are completely shocking in light of the kindness they received from the landowner by employing them and making their livelihood possible. Rather than blessing the landowner with his agreed upon crops, they beat, brutalized and even murdered his servants several times!

V6-8—Sending the beloved son and possible heir of the land, shows the serious nature of the situation. Surely they would respect the beloved son of the landowner. Yet their greed and wicked hearts led to the outrageous death of the beloved son!

Mt. 21:41

THE MEANING (Mk. 12:10-11)—This parable reveals the imminent judgment coming to the religious leaders for their murderous hearts, that will result in the rejection and murder of Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son. This parable is prophetic regarding Christ's death and resurrection, condemning to the Christ rejecter, and full of hope for the Christ receiver.

*The Landowner who planted the vineyard is Almighty God. The Vineyard is Israel. The Tenant Farmers are the religious leaders (Sanhedrin) who oversaw the spiritual development of Israel. The Servants employed by the Landowner are the Prophets throughout the ages who represented God. The Beloved Son is the Lord Jesus Christ (God's Son who will save sinners through His death).

Isaiah 5:1-7

Mt. 23:29-35

*Finally, God sends His Beloved Son to bring people to God through repentance, faith, & forgiveness of sin [**Jn. 3:16-17**].

Jn. 1:11-12

Ps. 118:22-23

*The Cornerstone is the most important stone in the building. You build vertically & horizontally off of the Cornerstone.

Acts 4:10-12

Mk. 8:31; Acts 2:22-24

*CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION WE ARE TO BUILD UPON TO HAVE A LIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THE FATHER (**See 1 Pet. 2:4-11**)!

THE RESPONSE (Mk. 12:12)—Simply put the Religious leaders hated Christ and wanted to kill Him, but they feared the people so they would wait for a better time (2 days later on good Friday).

Mt. 21:43; Eph. 2:19-22; Mt. 21:44

John MacArthur—*The vineyard owner's destruction of the rebellious tenants depicts God's judgement on Israel in A.D. 70. God was remarkably patient with His disobedient, rebellious people. The prior judgments on the nation had been centuries earlier, at the hands of the Assyrians on the northern kingdoms (Israel) in 722 B.C. and the Babylonians on the southern kingdom (Judah) in 586 B.C. The coming destruction of Israel and especially Jerusalem was devastating. Tens of thousands of Jews were slaughtered, and thousands more sold into slavery. The temple was destroyed, bringing to an end the entire religious system of sacrifices, priests, and ceremonies that depended on it.*