

## Daily Bible Study

### *“The Vineyard Owner’s Final Call”*

*Mark 12:1 - 12*

*November 13– November 19, 2011*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** – As we continue in our study of Mark we take for our text this week, **Mark 12:1-12**. Last time we saw Jesus Authority was challenged by the religious leaders when they asked Him, “*By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you the authority to do them?*” Then Jesus asked them a question in return concerning whether or not John the Baptist’s ministry was “*from heaven or from men*”. He called them to answer Him before He would answer them and the result was huge embarrassment for them, because they had hardened themselves against the truth. Now in chapter 12 Jesus exposes these leaders and at the same time graciously warns them as He begins with telling them the story of The Vineyard Owner and the Wicked Vinedressers. The Vinedressers not only refused to give the owner what was due to him, but even mistreated his servants. To top it all off, in the face of the gracious Owner they killed His Son and therefore rejected *The Vineyard Owner’s Final Call* and brought judgment and retribution on themselves. These men knew that the meaning and intention of the parable indicted them as they were the wicked Vinedressers of the story so they wanted to arrest Jesus, but were afraid of the crowd. They will continue on in the text (**vs. 13-40**) to attempt to catch Jesus in his teaching by asking Him more questions. For now, let’s deal with **Mark 12:1-12** “*Then He began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a place for the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the vinedressers. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent them another servant, and at him they threw stones, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. And again he sent another, and him they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some. Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those vinedressers said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they took him and killed him and cast him out of the vineyard. “Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others. Have you not even read this Scripture: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?” And they sought to lay hands on Him, but feared the multitude, for they knew He had spoken the parable against them. So they left Him and went away.”*

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: Father, teach me Your Word this week. Help me never spurn Your grace.

**TUESDAY** – **Mark 12:1-2** “*Then He began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a place for the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the vinedressers.”* In this story, what is labeled a *parable* (a comparing, an earthly story with a heavenly meaning) we find the characters and images are all meant to teach and represent realities deeper than the mere surface story itself. ***The Vineyard Owner*** is none other than God The Father Himself. The *vineyard* itself is the people of Israel. This was a picture with which the Jews were perfectly familiar. In the Old Testament, this language is vividly used in **Isaiah 5:1–7**, and many of the Greek words here occur in the Septuagint (Greek Translation of the OT) version of **Isaiah 5**. This vineyard was given all the extras. There was a *hedge* to mark out its boundaries, to keep out thieves and protect it from wild animals. There was a *wine vat* in the vineyard that collected the wine from the press. There was also a *tower*. This provided storage and shelter as well as protection as it was a place to keep watch from for any thieves or animals (**Song of Solomon 2:6**) who would come to steal the grapes. The *vinedressers* represent the religious rulers of the nation Israel throughout their history. The *servants* that the owner sent to the vineyard represent the prophets. We know the language of servant and slave of God to be biblical language. Moses, (**Joshua 14:7**) and David (**2 Samuel 3:18**) were both referred to with this title. And the title occurs regularly in the books of the prophets (**Amos 3:7, Jeremiah 7:25, Zechariah 1:6**). Finally as we will see later on the owners *Son* is The Lord Jesus Himself. Read **Isaiah 5:1-7** and think that as these men heard this story the identifications and pictures were instantly familiar and identifiable to them. This parable is very sad as it is accurate to the facts concerning these privileged people.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me not to reject Your marvelous grace and all the revelation You have given to me through Holy Scripture but instead be grateful and quick to receive it.

**WEDNESDAY** – **Mark 12:1-5** “*Then He began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a place for the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the vinedressers. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent them another servant, and at him they threw stones, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. And again he sent another, and him they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some.”* As we move along in the *parable* we begin to set the scene in our thinking. After we read of the details of the vineyard we read of its workings and how the owner had *leased* it out to *vinedressers* to tend and had arranged with them the details of payment. At *vintage-time* (harvest time), he sent a *servant that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard*. We

mentioned the *servants* represented the prophets. Unlike the *vinedressers* who had contracted with the owner, these *servants* were commissioned by the owner to collect and carry to the master the portion of the fruit that belonged to him. They had been delegated by him, and as Jesus taught in the earlier text concerning the last OT prophet (*servant*) John the Baptist, they, the *servants* were invested with the master's authority. The *servant* made his demand or request in the owner's name. Furthermore, these requests from the *servants* were proper because of the previous agreement that had been made, and because "*vintage-time*," that is, the time of harvest and collection had arrived. The text continues by describing the behavior toward the *servants* sent by the owner. Remember these were the prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others, who called the nation to repentance of sin and obedience toward God and the Jews persecuted and killed them in many different ways. But, notice again the great mercy of God as long-suffering and patient. They *beat* the first servant *and sent him away empty-handed*. Concerning the second, *at him they threw stones, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated*. The third servant *they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some*.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, thank You for being so faithful to always bring Your Word to Your people through the prophets and record of Sacred scripture.*

**THURSDAY – Mark 12:6-9** *“Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those vinedressers said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they took him and killed him and cast him out of the vineyard. “Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others”.* As the text moves on we see vividly the absolute amazing love of God. The language of **verse 6** is moving to say the least. This is the heart of God displayed toward sinners. They had mistreated and killed all the previous *servants* that had been sent to them and yet God reaches out an invitation toward them one last time. As Alexander Maclaren states, this was “God’s last arrow”. This was the last expression of Divine mercy toward them as God became man and came in the incarnation in the person of His Son Jesus (**John 3:16**). Yet as Scripture records, *“He came unto His own and His own received Him not”* (**John 1:11**). This text beloved implies such deep emotion as *God still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’* God lastly sends His own Son as the owner of the vineyard believes they would be too ashamed to hurt Him. But what happens? What does the wicked heart of man (**Jeremiah 17:9**) conspire against God? When these wicked men see the Son approaching they begin to plot and scheme. This is very important beloved, what they are about to do is not a matter of impulse. This is schemed sin, the results of sinful and wicked deliberation. In our vernacular it is premeditated murder. Why would they do this? Because, *‘This is the heir. Come,*

*let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’* In their sinful foolishness they forget that the owner, the Son’s father, is still alive, and will certainly bring vengeance upon them. The words of **Psalm 2:4** ring out, “*He who sits in the heavens shall laugh...*” They still carry out their plan. Jesus has finished the story yet not thoroughly explained it as He now asks the audience a question and answers it: “*Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others*”. Jesus is telling them that in the end it is the owner of the *vineyard* and his Son who triumph, not the *vinedressers*. Read **Psalm 2**.

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank you for Your wonderful love and grace demonstrated through the sending of Jesus to die for me in my place. Help me love, trust, and receive Him by faith.*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 12:10-12** “*Have you not even read this Scripture: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’*” And they sought to lay hands on Him, but feared the multitude, for they knew He had spoken the parable against them. So they left Him and went away.” Jesus now brings to His audience the words of Sacred Scripture from **Psalm 118**. There, builders (leaders and king) had *rejected* a stone, had cast off the seeming low, insignificant stone. Pictured is little insignificant Israel that although scorned by the nations became the Divinely blessed, cornerstone, head of the nations (**Psalm 147**, esp. **12-13, 19-20**). This was not by their own power or doing but it was *the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes*. Jesus now shows that the words of Psalm 118 reach their ultimate fulfillment in the owner’s *son*, that is, in Himself, the *true* Israel. He is the stone being rejected by leaders and nation as a whole who would soon yell for His death. But something *marvelous* would happen; *the rejected stone would become the cornerstone*: Christ crucified would rise again triumphantly. But the rejection of the people resulted in Divine retribution against them for as Jesus said, *Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others*. In Matthews’s account of this he records Jesus saying, “*the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.*” Why? In summary, because they had refused to live up to their obligations, refusing, like the vinedressers to give the owner his due. Read **Psalm 2:12** for the lesson for us all.

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to honor and obey You. Thanks for being triumphant!*