

THE GOSPEL OF  
**mark**  
Calling All Rejects  
Mark 12:1-12

*"A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. <sup>2</sup>At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. <sup>3</sup>But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup>Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. <sup>5</sup>He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.*

*<sup>6</sup>"He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.'*

*<sup>7</sup>"But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.'<sup>8</sup>So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard."*

Mark 12:1-8

### The Allegory Revealed (see also Isaiah 5:1-7)

- The vineyard represents \_\_\_\_\_.
- The owner represents \_\_\_\_\_.
- The tenants represent the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The servants sent represent God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- The owner's son represents God's Son, \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Tenant's Rejection (Mark 12:2-8)

*"But they were disobedient and rebelled against you... They killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you..."*

Nehemiah 9:26

*"The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him..."*

Mark 11:18

Even in their rejection, Jesus is calling these leaders back to \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Owner's Reaction (Mark 12:9)

God ultimately pronounces \_\_\_\_\_... but only after a tremendous amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

*"The Lord... is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*

II Peter 3:9

### The Son's Resurrection (Mark 12:10-11)

*"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*

Mark 12:10

**Jesus' rejection opens the door for our redemption.**

## Gospel of Mark: Calling All Rejects

Questions based on June 2, 2024 sermon

### Getting to Know Me

1. What do you think is the weirdest thing people believe even though there is a great deal of evidence against it (i.e. flat earth...)? Why do you think they continue believing it?

### Digging Deeper

2. What new insight or information did you learn as you engaged in Pastor Phil's sermon this Sunday?
3. Read Mark 12:1-8.
  - What questions or initial reactions arise as you hear this?
  - What words would you use to describe the landowner and the tenants? Why?
  - Break down the allegory: Who is the owner? Who are the tenants? What does the vineyard represent? Who are the servants and the son?
4. Read Isaiah 5:1-7. What more could the owner of the vineyard (God) have done for the people of Israel? In what ways did the vineyard (Israel) produce bad fruit? How does Jesus recast and retell this parable?
5. Read Mark 12:9-12. If the religious leaders recognized Jesus' parable as targeting them and how they had rejected God's many messengers, why did they continue to plot to kill Jesus? What was their motivation?

6. Read Psalm 118:22-23. What is a "capstone" or "cornerstone"? In what ways does Jesus epitomize these words? Why do you think Jesus quoted this scripture passage here?
7. Read Mark 1:11, Mark 9:7 and John 3:16. How do these verses shed new light on the owner's words in Mark 12:6?
  - How does God the Father feel about his Son Jesus and why did he send him to die in our place? What does this say about the character of God: His love for us? His justice? His desire for reconciliation to us?

### Making It Personal:

8. In Mark 12:9, there is judgment from the owner. Share your thoughts or struggles with the idea that God will judge those who reject him in the end? How does II Peter 3:9 help you understand God's merciful heart amidst his justice?
9. The religious leaders opposed Jesus to hold onto their power and status. What motivates us when we oppose Jesus' authority in our lives?
10. Ultimately, Jesus' rejection opened the door for our redemption. Spend some time meditating on these scriptures and this beautiful truth this week.
11. As you wrap up your Growth Group session, how has God grown you over these past 10 weeks? Year?

### Prayer

*God, Thank you for your incredible patience. You are God full of love and justice. Help us to respond to both your love and justice. Help us to trust you. Give us the love to draw our neighbors to you. Be the cornerstone of our lives. Amen.*

*We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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- The owner represents God.
- The tenants represent the religious leaders.
- The servants sent represent God's prophets.
- The owner's son represents God's Son, Jesus.

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