



# THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

MARCH 1 - 7

## SUNDAY: SCRIPTURE

### MARK 12:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: “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.

<sup>9</sup> “What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup> Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture:

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;

<sup>11</sup> the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

<sup>12</sup> Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.



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## MONDAY: OBSERVATION

What words come to mind when you hear the word “landowner”? How about “tenant”? I think at times landowner can come with some negative first thoughts: rich, greedy, high status. Words that come to mind for tenant could be: caretaker, slave, insignificant. As a farmer, these terms resonate as I am both a landowner and a tenant. Our sinful human nature can lead to disrespect, a sense of entitlement, and a longing to be the “Landowner.” One of my 2-year-old’s favorite words right now is “MINE”. We easily forget that we are all tenants and the fruit is not ours! In the parable, God, the Landowner, goes to great length to provide everything needed for success: a protective wall, a winepress for productivity, and a watchtower for security. He then entrusts it to us as tenants, expecting stewardship and fruit.

We are also reminded in this parable of God’s extreme patience and generosity. He showed repeated mercy, sending servant after servant to the tenants, even after their violence. Then, in the ultimate act of mercy, He sends His Son. In their greed and entitlement, the tenants plot to kill the son for his inheritance. This no doubt foreshadows the sacrifice that Jesus would soon make.

## TUESDAY: APPLICATION

We are all tenants, and that is not a negative thing! After all, God is our Landowner. Reflect on our role as tenants (stewards) of God’s vineyard. What has God entrusted to you? Talents, time, resources, or opportunities? Are you producing fruit that honors Him, or have entitlement, rebellion, and complacency come in the way? Look for your next opportunity to yield more fruit. God expects a return on His investment in us.



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## WEDNESDAY: PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for being our ultimate Landowner. Forgive us for hoarding your blessings and for our actions of entitlement. Help us to be faithful tenants who produce fruit that glorifies you. In Jesus name, Amen.

## THURSDAY: OBSERVATION

In this parable, the landowner (God the Father) plants a vineyard (Israel - God's people) and rents the vineyard to tenant farmers (Religious Leaders of Israel) and then moves away. At harvest time, the landowner sends servants (Prophets and Messengers) to collect what is due to him from the harvest. The tenants reject the servants, abusing or killing each one, even the landowner's son and heir (Jesus Christ). The landowner's response is to come and kill the unfaithful tenants and give the land to new tenants (Loyal Believers).

## FRIDAY: APPLICATION

God wanted His fruit. He patiently sent messenger after messenger, but the rebellious tenants would only be satisfied with killing and stealing.

In what areas might you be rejecting the patient messengers of God? Are there places of resistance? Does it feel more natural to kill and steal, rather than trust and obey?

## SATURDAY: PRAYER

Father in Heaven, thank you for caring for me with great patience and commitment. Help me loosen my grip on the things that do not belong to me. Make me aware of the places where I am rejecting your leading so that I might choose to follow you. Help me to love you in heart, soul, mind, and strength. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

