

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Mark 12:1-12 Jesus teaches the parable of the wicked tenants and we are shown 5 characteristics of God's character.

- I. God's sovereignty is shown when He chose a people for Himself (v. 1).
- II. God's patience is shown when He continues to send prophets to call His people to fruitful obedience yet the leaders reject and kill them (vs. 2-5).
- III. God's love is shown when He sends his beloved Son to provide the fruit of obedience for His people yet the leaders kill Him (vs 6-8).
- IV. God's righteous wrath is shown when He destroys the leaders and transfers His gospel plan to others (vs. 9-10).
- V. God's power is shown when He overturns leaders' rejection and provides salvation through His son (v. 11-12).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 14, 2016

Passage: Mark 12:1-12

Memory Passage: Mark 12:10-11

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:1-12 & 4:10-13.** What did you learn in chapter 4 about parables, their purpose, and their hearers?
- (b) To whom is Jesus speaking in 12:1-12, and why do you think He speaks to them using a parable?
- (c) Express the primary meaning of this parable using one short sentence.
- (d) How does Mark 12:1-12 connect with what comes before in chapter 11 and after in chapter 12?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:1-12 & Is. 5:1-7.** What similarities do you notice between these 2 passages and why are they important?
- (b) Identify the people represented in this parable by the vineyard, the fruit, the owner, the tenants, the servants, and the son.
- (c) **Read Matt. 21:33-46 & Luke 20:9-19.** Compare and contrast these parallel passages with Mark 12:1-12. What differences do you see and why might they exist, what do you learn from Matt. & Luke that helps you more fully understand Mark, what similarities do you identify, etc.?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:1-12.** Who are the builders who have rejected the cornerstone, and who does the cornerstone represent?
- (b) Who are the “others” of verse 9?
- (c) Retell the parable using the referents you identified yesterday in question (b) and today in questions (a) & (b).
- (d) Why would the leaders’ understanding that the parable referred to them cause them to fear the people?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:1-12.** How do verses 10-11 explain verse 9b?
- (b) Which characteristics of God do you find exhibited in this text?
- (c) It is easy to celebrate God’s love, but are you able to say, “it is marvelous in my eyes!” when you contemplate God’s judgment? If you answered, “yes,” what dangers must you avoid as you marvel, and if you answered “no,” how can you change your thinking to become one who marvels both at God’s acts of love and His acts of judgment?
- (d) Read and meditate on Hosea 2:14-23 in light of the way God’s love is shown in Mark 12:1-12. Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to your mind concerning both its content and your application of that content.

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark. 12:1-12.** How would you respond to someone who rejected this entire parable by saying: “The owner was really naïve and dumb! What did he expect would happen to his son? Who would want to believe in a naïve and dumb God?”
- (b) What sinful characteristics did the tenants exhibit? How do today’s enemies of God exhibit these same characteristics? Which of these characteristics are *you* prone to exhibit, and how should you put them to death?
- (c) The parable assumes that there was fruit to be had that the leaders refused to render. In what ways do leaders in churches today obstruct the rendering of fruit from God’s people? In what ways can you, in your personal ministry, do the same?
- (d) How does this parable help you to understand those with whom you work or associate that do not respect God’s Son, and how does this understanding strengthen your ability to communicate spiritual ideas to them?

DATE: February 14, 2016

PASSAGE: Mark 12:1-12

*God’s Unfathomable Love*