

Taking it Home

- Read Acts 4:11, Romans 9:32-33, Ephesians 2:20 and 1 Peter 2:4-7. How does the idea of Jesus as “cornerstone” develop through these passages? Why is this significant?
- God’s heart for His people is to go to great lengths to offer them repentance. At great risk, the landowner in our story sent his son after the tenants had already abused, shamed and even killed his servants. So too, God sent His Son to live, suffer, die, and rise again that you and I might be made righteous (Romans 5:8). The vineyard was not removed. The tenants were removed and replaced. How does God’s judgment of the religious establishment remind you of His holiness and righteousness? Does it cause you to hope or to fear?
- Take your time to slowly read through and meditate on 2 Peter 3. How can you apply the message of judgment along with the themes of repentance and love offered to you in the person of Jesus?

Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that a person must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God. A simple way to think about being born again is to use ABC:

Admit that you are sinner, being sorry for your sin and turning away from your sin. (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

Believe that Jesus is God’s Son and He paid the penalty for sin. (Romans 5:8)

Confess your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10)

If you have trusted Christ as your Savior you can have confidence that any judgment you should receive for your sin is satisfied at the cross by grace through faith (Romans 5:8). Read 1 John 5 and remind yourself that if you have the Son, you have Life.

Things That Are God’s
“He Will Come and Destroy”
Mark 12:1-12

Dr. Matthew St. John
Bethel Church
February 15, 2015

“He Will Come and Destroy”

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, the At Home Study Guide, and a podcast of sermons with study guide, visit www.bethelhc.com.

At Home Study Guide

For the week of February 15, 2015

Mark 12:1-12

Quick Review

God the Father has gone to great lengths to demonstrate His love for His people. You and I know love because God first loved us. God's love for His people is patient, offering repentance for those who will seek Him. God's character is holy. As holy and loving one day judgment will come with such surprise that many will be caught off guard. Jesus reveals to the religious leaders in Mark 12:1-12 that their time of influence will soon expire. Their leaders have shamed God's messengers, beat them and killed them. God has judged their efforts. They will soon be replaced. So too we look forward to a day when God's judgment will be final. Jesus will return and all that is wrong in the world will be made right. Until that day, you and I have the opportunity to trust Him and participate in the vineyard work of building His kingdom.

My Story

- What stood out to you the most as you listened to the message on Sunday?
- Do you know someone who has land or works as a tenant farmer similar to the story Jesus told? What is the responsibility of the tenant to the farmer?
- Have you ever been trusted with a task and totally ruin the opportunity? How did the person who trusted you respond?

Growing Deeper

Take your time to read through Mark 12:1-12 and then summarize what you've read. The early reader would hear the echoes of Mark 1:11 and 9:7; "this is my son in whom I'm well pleased." Recognize the finality of the land owner's offer when he sends his son.

- How does the escalation of violence toward the owner's representatives parallel what is happening to Jesus' followers?
- What do you notice that is different as Matthew tells this story in Matthew 21:33-46?
- Read Isaiah 5:1-7. The vineyard is Israel. The sour/rotten/bad grapes are the leaders who should have produced fruit but do not. Why did Pastor Matthew say this was significant in Mark 12?
- Consider Mary's song to the Lord in Luke 1:46-56. The word for hungry in Luke 1:53 is empty-handed in Mark 12:3. Reading these stories side by side, what do you notice about the character of God?