

The Sending of the Son

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, May 12, 2019; Steve Thiel

Theme: The foolishness of those who reject Jesus and the salvation that is only available in Him will be seen when God's forbearance gives way to God's fury; so seek God's forgiveness while there is still time to repent and believe in God's glorious gift of His only beloved Son, our Savior.

I. The Forbearance of God – Read Mark 12:1-8

- A. Jesus taught in parables earlier in Mark 4. What similarities and differences do you see between the context of Mark 4 (think specifically of 3:6, 10-12, 22-30) and the context of Mark 12?
- B. Read Isaiah 5:1-7. How do these verses relate to the parable in Mark 12 and the preceding context of Mark 11? What fruitlessness is Jesus looking for in the hearts of Israel and its religious leaders?
- C. After reading the parable, what attributes of God come to your mind? Do you only think of God's justice and wrath? Or do you think about God's patience, kindness, and goodness as well?
- D. How has God demonstrated tremendous forbearance with you? Do you spend time meditating on this attribute of God? How does God's patience towards you impact the way you treat others?

II. The Fury of God – Read Mark 12:9, 12

- A. What are all the ways in which the tenants demonstrate their foolishness against the landowner? How do the consequences of this foolishness serve as a solemn warning to its hearers?
- B. Foolishness is seeing the truth, yet refusing to submit to it. What are some of the ways in which the religious leaders have seen the truth that Jesus is the Messiah and yet refused to submit to it?
- C. As you think about your own life, what are ways in which you've acted foolishly in your response to the gospel? What are current areas in your life where you need to grow in submitting to Christ?

III. The Forgiveness of God – Read Mark 12:10-12

- A. As you think about the Lord Jesus Christ, in what ways is He the stone that the builder's rejected? In what ways is He the cornerstone? And how has this all been the Lord's doing?
- B. Without a cornerstone, structures collapse. How would you like to grow in trusting Christ as the cornerstone of your faith? How are you most tempted to trust in other things?
- C. Our hearts are often captivated by lesser things. What tends to captivate your heart? What are some ways in which you can maintain a healthy amazement that the cross was "the Lord's doing"? How do you fight the good fight of faith to marvel at the things that are worthy of astonishment?