



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of November 19, 2023

Sermon Text Luke 20:9-18

9 And he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. 10 When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. 13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' 14 But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' 15 And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" 17 But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? 18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, explain Jesus' parable about the landowner and tenant farmers (for help, see Isaiah 5:1-7).
2. For the first century Jew who understood the relationship between a landowner and tenant farmer, what would they find strange about this parable? (for help, think about where the balance of power lies between the landowner and tenant) Although the parable might appear odd and unrealistic, what point is Jesus trying to make?
3. In the parable, the landowner finally sends his beloved son to the tenants who summarily kill him because they believe in doing so, they will inherit the land. Why do you think the tenants would have such an absurd thought? Explain how all sin can lead to a person doing stupid things and ultimately their downfall.
4. In what ways do you think God continues to send His messengers to a lost world today? How do people receive His message and why do you think they respond this way?
5. Most people like to focus on Jesus' kindness, patience, mercy and long suffering, and rightly so. Why is it also loving and gracious, but at the same time very difficult, to warn unbelievers that Jesus is also a stone that will break into pieces and crush everyone who rejects Him?