

WICKED TENANTS OF GOD'S VINEYARD

1. Read Mark 12:1-12. Jesus began this parable by describing the vineyard like Isaiah 5:1-7 does, in which Yahweh plants a vineyard. Isaiah's parable would have come immediately to the mind of His hearers and imply that the situation was the same then as it is now. Jesus meant for this parable to be understood by the Jewish leaders. Who do the following represent?
 - a. The Landowner _____
 - b. The tenants _____
 - c. The Vineyard _____
 - d. The repeated messengers _____
 - e. The Son _____
2. What did the Landowner rightfully expect? What did Yahweh expect of the religious leaders?
3. Read Psalm 118:22-23. Jesus ends His parable by quoting these verses and applying them to Himself. What was Jesus trying to communicate to the religious leaders? Did they understand the parable? Did they heed the warning?

JESUS OUTWITS THREE OPPOSITION GROUPS

SECTION 1

4. Read Mark 12:13-17. What was the trap the Pharisees and Herodians wanted to spring?
5. What was Jesus' answer?
6. Israel also had an image and an inscription. Read Genesis 1:26. Read Jeremiah 31:33.

Finally, Ezekiel 36:25-27 then draws our attention. (This text has already come into play in Mark's Gospel as we have considered the eschatological reign and rule of God). Here God gives His people a new heart (26) after washing them (25) and then gives them a new spirit (26) which is God's Spirit (27). ----

Otherwise expressed:

God will inscribe His righteous will on the hearts of His washed and Spirit-filled people who bear His image as human beings and who, from the standpoint of the NT and the coming of Jesus, are part of the new creation of the eschatological reign and rule of God.

7. Considering that summary and in reading 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:29, and Colossians 3:10 when were you renewed in the image of God and inscribed with His righteous will?

8. What then is Jesus' invitation to the Pharisees and Herodians?

SECTION 2

9. Read Mark 12:18-27. The Sadducees are the second group who attempt to discredit Jesus. Note: They did not believe in life after death so their question was an attempt to highlight the difficulties that would be encountered if there was a resurrection. So, they wanted to make Jesus' belief in the resurrection look ridiculous and thus discredit Him. They also only believed that the Pentateuch (First 5 books of the Bible) were the only valid Scriptures. According to Jesus, what is the basis of their error?

10. How do they not know their own Scriptures specifically? What did Jesus teach about marriage in heaven/new creation?

11. How did they not know their own Scriptures regarding the resurrection? Or to ask another way: What did Jesus mean that God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

SECTION 3

12. Read Mark 12:28-34. What did both Jesus and the Scribe agree is the central concern of God?

13. What is the basis for our love of God (12:29)? “

14. Why did Jesus' answer include two commandments?

15. What did Jesus mean that the Scribe was “not far from the kingdom of God”?