

The Book of Mark:

A Pivotal Parable

Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ² At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

"He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

⁷ "But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ⁸ So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

⁹ "What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Haven't you read this passage of Scripture:

*"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
¹¹ the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?"*

¹² Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

Mark 12:1-12 (NIV)

THIS PARABLE IS HELPFUL BECAUSE...

- IT SHOWS US THE BIBLE IS A _____ BOOK, NOT A _____.
- IT HIGHLIGHTS GOD'S PLAN FOR _____ AND THE _____.

*Let me sing now for my beloved
A song of my beloved about His vineyard.
My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.*

*² He dug it all around, cleared it of stones,
And planted it with the choicest vine.
And He built a tower in the middle of it,
And also carved out a wine vat in it;*

*Then He expected it to produce good grapes,
But it produced only worthless ones.*

*³ "And now, you inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
Judge between Me and My vineyard.*

⁴ What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it?

Why, when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones?

*⁵ So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard:
I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed;
I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground.*

*⁶ I will lay it waste;
It will not be pruned nor hoed,
But briars and thorns will come up.
I will also command the clouds not to rain on it.”
Isaiah 5:1-6 (NASB)*

*The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.
Isaiah 5:7 (NASB)*

*For these are rebellious people, deceitful children,
children unwilling to listen to the LORD’s instruction.*

*¹⁰ They say to the seers,
“See no more visions!”
and to the prophets,
“Give us no more visions of what is right!
Tell us pleasant things,
prophecy illusions.*

*¹¹ Leave this way,
get off this path,
and stop confronting us
with the Holy One of Israel!”
Isaiah 30:9-11 (NIV)*

*From the time your ancestors left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets. ²⁶ But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their ancestors.’
Jeremiah 7:25-26 (NIV)*

- THE STORY CONFIRMS GOD’S PLAN IS THROUGH _____.

*..and a voice came from the heavens: “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”
Mark 1:11 (NASB)*

*Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him!”
Mark 9:7 (NASB)*

*“BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN;
MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL DELIGHTS;
I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM,
AND HE WILL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES.
Isaiah 42:1 (NASB)*

*For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
Colossians 1:13-14 (NASB)*

*“Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them.
Luke 11:47 (NIV)*

*This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for unbelievers,
“A stone which the builders rejected,
This became the chief cornerstone,”
⁸ and,
“A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”;
for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.
⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
1 Peter 2:7-10 (NASB)*