

# MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

1. **If Jesus is the only authority, we need to speak about Him in this world for people to know Him.** One day, everyone will stand before Jesus and give an answer. On that day, He will either be the cornerstone in our life — and it will be a day of rewards, or He will be the crushing stone in our life — and Jesus will be the judge. Since Jesus is the one authority for everyone, we need to tell others about Jesus, invite others to church where they can hear about Jesus, and use our friendships, employment, and time with others in the community to speak about Jesus.
2. **If Jesus is the only authority, I need to take the time to know Jesus through His Word.** We live in a world filled with distractions. Fifteen minutes in our Bibles is hard to find. If Jesus is the one authority that matters, the only way we can know Him and follow Him is if we take time to meet Him by His Word. We need to fight the distractions and make time to read and learn the Word of God so Jesus will be our authority.
3. **If Jesus is the only authority, working together in the church so we can follow Jesus better and love Jesus more is a wise decision.** The only way anyone gets better is a training partner. This is why we attend YMCA classes. As iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17. We need to be in Life Groups, Bible Study Fellowship, Iron Man training or any type of group that challenges us to know Jesus better and love His Word more. God put us together in the church because we will follow Jesus better together than any of us will on our own.

## Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 12:1-12 and Isaiah 5:1-7. If Jesus was echoing Isaiah 5 when He told the parable of the tenants, what important background does Isaiah 5:1-7 add to this parable?
2. What does Mark 12:1-12 teach us about the importance of spiritual leaders and the impact they have on those under them? (See Hosea 4:6-9; Jeremiah 6:13; Malachi 2:7-9). Knowing that Jesus, and His Words to us through the apostles in the New Testament is source of spiritual authority in our life, what does good spiritual leadership look like today? What does poor spiritual leadership look like?
3. What does this parable teach us about God's patience? How does this parable help you display more patience? Does God's patience last forever? What should God's patience and his judgment (especially as seen by the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.) teach us?
4. Jesus finished this parable with a prophecy found in Psalm 118:22-23. What does this teach us about Jesus and the role He should play in our life? If He doesn't play that role, what role will He play according to Luke 20:18?
5. Reflect on the three actions steps at the end of the sermon. Which one is most important for you to follow this week?

## Mark 12:1-12 – Is Jesus My Cornerstone Or My Crushing Stone?

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*And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.* Mark 8:31 (ESV)

*...for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."* Mark 9:31 (ESV)

*...saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles."* Mark 10:33 (ESV)

## 1. The Parable

*And he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country."* Mark 12:1 (ESV)

*Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.* Isaiah 5:1-2 (ESV)

*For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!* Isaiah 5:7 (ESV)

*When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed.* Mark 12:2-3 (ESV)

Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. Mark 12:4 (ESV)

And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. Mark 12:5 (ESV)

And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Matthew 21:35 (ESV)

He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' Mark 12:6 (ESV)

But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. Mark 12:7-8 (ESV)

What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Mark 12:9 (ESV)

## 2. The Interpretation

- A. Who was the planter of the vineyard? God
- B. What does the vineyard represent? God's people
- C. Who are the tenant farmers? The Spiritual Leaders of the People

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in." Matthew 23:13 (ESV)

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. Matthew 23:15 (ESV)

- D. What does the long journey the owner of the vineyard took represent? Old Testament History
- E. Who were the slaves God sent to receive His portion of the harvest? The Old Testament Prophets
- F. Who was the owner's son in the story? Jesus

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:11 (ESV)

G. What will God do to the people who murdered His Son? Destroy them and remove their authority over His vineyard

H. Who are the new caretakers to whom God will give His vineyard? Jesus and the apostles

He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" Luke 20:16 (ESV)

## 3. The Prophecy

Have you not read this Scripture: " 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" Mark 12:10-11 (ESV)

## 4. The Prophecy's Fulfillment

And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away. Mark 12:12 (ESV)

Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him. Luke 20:18 (ESV)

God has done away with the Old Testament priests, temple, and sacrificial system. God the Father has placed all authority in Jesus His Son. Since Jesus holds all authority, He must be the cornerstone of our life or He will be the crushing stone of our life.

## 5. Application

We live in a world flooded with information competing for our attention. God has simplified things. Jesus and His Words through the Bible are the authority I need to know and follow.