

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 38

**THE PARABLE OF THE
TENANTS**

MARK 12:1-12

Life of Christ

The Parable of the Tenants

Mark 12:1-12

Younger Verse

“The stone the builders didn’t accept has become the most important stone of all.”

Mark 12:10

Older Verse

“The stone the builders didn’t accept has become the most important stone of all.”

Mark 12:10

Lesson Goals

Understand that the religious leaders hated Jesus

Learn about the parable Jesus told to show how He would be treated

Recognize that we need to accept Jesus

Opener

Has anyone ever let you borrow something that you wanted to keep? What did you do when they wanted it back? Today’s lesson is about a situation just like that. Let’s see what happened.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned that Jesus’ power came from God. We saw how Jesus handled the church leaders that did not like Him. When those men could not answer Jesus’ question, He did not answer theirs. Jesus knew that those leaders did not want other people hearing about God from Him. Those leaders did not believe that Jesus was God’s Son. Jesus decided that He would share a story with them.

One day a man planted a vineyard. A vineyard is a place where they grow grapes so they can make wine. The owner put a big wall around it. Then he dug a big hole, called a winepress, in the ground so he could crush and squeeze all the juice out of the fruit. The owner needed to go on a trip, so he found some farmers to stay at the vineyard to work while he was away. Then the time finally came when the fruit was ready to be eaten and used to make wine. So the owner sent someone back to the vineyard to collect some of the fruit.

The farmers saw this person coming. They wanted to keep all the fruit for themselves. What do you think they did? They grabbed him, beat him up, and sent him back with nothing. The owner found out what happened. He sent another person to try and collect some grapes. Do you know what happened? This time they hit him on the head! That was two people the owner had sent that had come back with nothing.

The owner owned all the fruit, but the farmers were acting like it was theirs. So the owner sent still another person. Do you know what they did this time? The farmers killed this man! The owner had a real problem. The vineyard and everything on his land belonged to him. The farmers that were supposed to be working for him were not obeying him. The owner only had one choice left. There was one person he had not sent yet, his son. He loved his son very much. He thought to himself, “The farmers will respect my son.”

The farmers recognized who the man’s son was. They said to themselves, “This is his son. When the owner dies, his son will get the vineyard. But if we kill his son, then the only ones left to get the vineyard will be us.” So they killed him too, and threw him out of the vineyard.

After Jesus shared this story, he asked the leaders a question. “What will the owner of the vineyard do now? He will come and kill all those farmers and then give the vineyard to other people.” Then Jesus quoted two verses, Psalm 118:22-23. “Haven’t you read what Scripture says, ‘The stone the builders didn’t accept has become the most important stone of all. The Lord has done it. It is wonderful in our eyes?’”

Jesus said those two verses because they foretold how the leaders of the church would treat Him. When Jesus said those verses, it showed He really did know God's plan and their plan to kill Him.

Remember, whenever Jesus told stories, He was teaching about something important. In this story, the owner represents God. The vineyard represents the people. The farmers stand for the leaders of the church that were supposed to be taking care of the people. The people the owner sent were all the prophets that God had sent to teach the people about Him. But the leaders did not listen to the prophets.

Who was the son? Yes, that was Jesus. He was telling them that they were going to kill Him. Then He told them that God would punish them for all the things they had done. The church leaders did not like hearing what Jesus said. They realized He was talking about them. They began to look for ways to arrest Him, but they were afraid of all the other people there, so they left and went away.

Why is this important for us? It shows that Jesus truly is God's Son. Only He knew what God was doing. The leaders may have worked in the church, but they were not obeying God. It shows us that Jesus was not afraid of the people that would end up killing Him. Jesus did not run away or hide from them. He shared about God with them. We see how faithful Jesus was to do things the way God wanted Him to.

Jesus, God's Son, died on the cross. But three days later, He came back to life. He did this so that all the bad things we do, sins, could be taken away. If you choose to believe that He did that for you and accept Him into your life, then you will get to be with Him in Heaven. If you want to know more, please talk with me before you leave.

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus tell a story about? (the owner of a vineyard and the tenants, or workers)
2. Who did the owner represent? (God) Who did the tenants represent? (the religious leaders)
3. What did Jesus say happened to the owner's son? (He was killed by the tenants.)

Prayer Time

Thank God that Jesus was willing to give His life for us. Pray that we will accept Him and not reject Him like the religious leaders did.

Life Application

Jesus taught stories to many people. Some of the people that heard did not understand. But when Jesus taught this story, the leaders understood it right away. They did not like it, so that was why they wanted to arrest Him. When you learn something new about God, how do you react? Do you obey His Word and use it everyday? Or do you get upset and decide not to listen anymore? The things we learn about God are to help us grow closer to Him, not push Him away.

Planning for Lesson 39
Paying Taxes to Caesar
Mark 12:13-17

Preschool Lesson for The Parable of the Tenants

Today we find Jesus and the disciples still visiting the church they went to last time. The leaders that did not like Him were there, too. Jesus wanted to share a story with everyone there.

One day, a man wanted to grow a bunch of grapes. He built a BIG wall around all his grapes. Then he dug a hole in the ground so that they could squish the grapes to make juice.

The man needed to go on a long trip so he needed to find some people to take care of his grapes. He found some farmers that would stay and take care of them. He waved good-bye and went on his trip.

As time went by, the grapes grew and were ready to be picked. The man wanted some, so he sent someone back.

The farmers became selfish and did not want to give any away. Now who did the grapes belong to? Yes, the man. The farmers beat up the person that the man sent and then kicked him out. Wow, that was mean!

The man sent another person and again, the farmers beat him up. The man wanted his grapes, so he kept sending people; each time the farmers would not give any grapes, and would hurt the person.

The man only had one person left. It was his son. He loved his son very much. What do you think the man did? He sent his son and said, "They will respect my son."

Do you know what the farmers did? They killed him!

Why do you think Jesus told this story? He wanted to let the people know what would happen to Him. Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to teach the people about Him. But the leaders did not like Jesus, so they put Him on a cross to die. The good news is that three days later, He came back to life! He did this so we could have a way to be with Him in heaven.

Hands-on Activities for The Parable of the Tenants

Bring grapes to share with the kids. Talk about how God wants us to share and not be selfish. Have them share the grapes with others.

Veggie Tales has a video called “Lyle the Kindly Viking.” It deals with selfishness versus sharing.

Act out the story. Choose people to be the owner, tenants, and Son. When the drama is over, ask them what it meant. Please do not leave the story with the sad ending. Make sure they see that Jesus died and rose again!

Make a “grape” picture using purple finger paint and your finger prints.

Bring a purple balloon. Have the kids get in a circle. As they pass the balloon, have each child say a word of the Bible verse.

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Mark 12:10**



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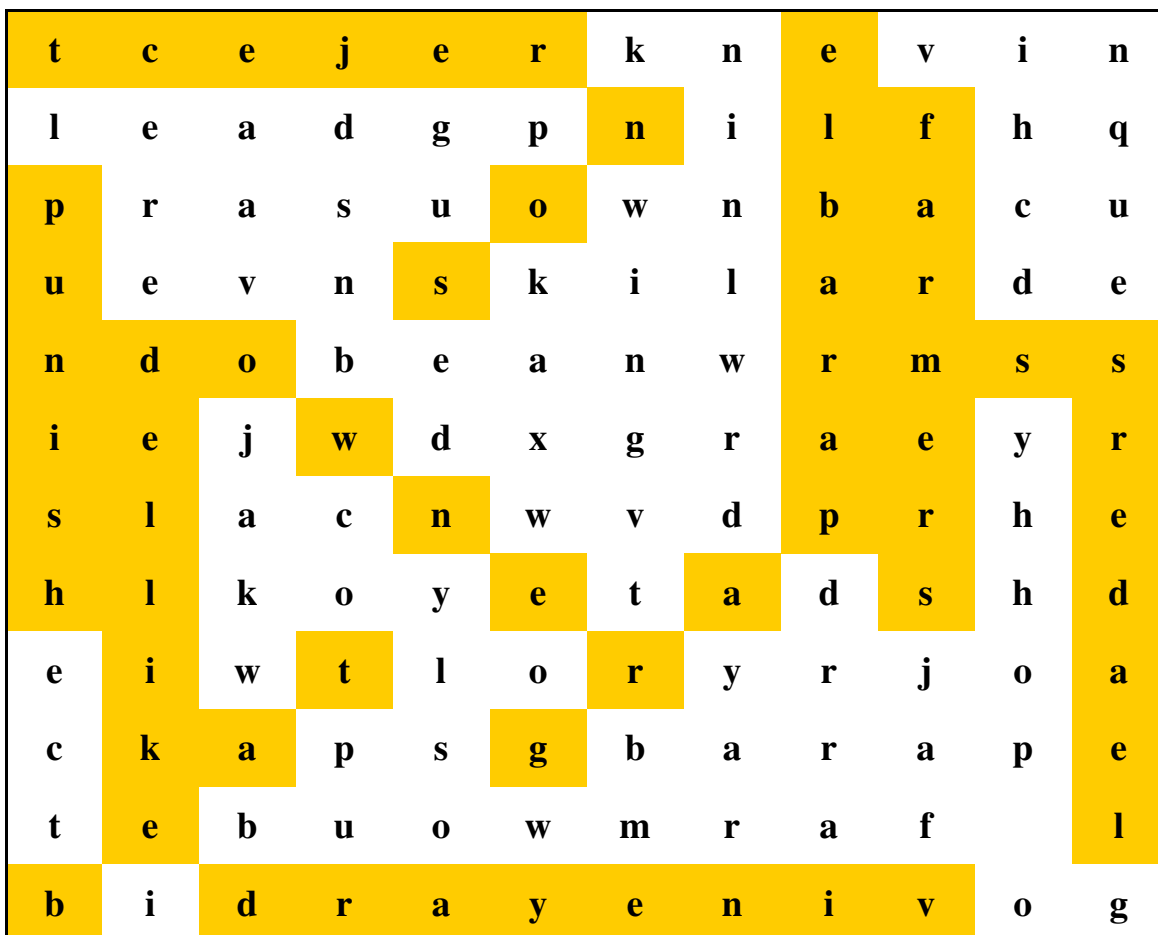
Word Search

The Parable of the Tenants

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| vineyard | farmers | owner |
| killed | son | grapes |
| reject | leaders | beat |
| parable | punish | |

Word Search



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| killed | son | grapes |
| reject | leaders | beat |
| parable | punish | |

What did the tenant
farmers do to the
owner's son?
They k__ll__d him.

Who did the owner's son
represent in the story?

JESUS

