



## LESSON 124 MARK 12:1-12

**1 Then He began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a place for the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. 2 Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the vinedressers. 3 And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 4 Again he sent them another servant, and at him they threw stones, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. 5 And again he sent another, and him they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some. 6 Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 But those vinedressers said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' 8 So they took him and killed him and cast him out of the vineyard. 9 "Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others. 10 Have you not even read this Scripture: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. 11 This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" 12 And they sought to lay hands on Him, but feared the multitude, for they knew He had spoken the parable against them. So they left Him and went away.**

1. How many are listening to Jesus' teaching? Read Matthew 21:33-46
2. Jesus taught many times in parables. Could they be understood?
3. The parable in Mark 12 was preceded by a parable given in Matt. 21: 28-32. From the first parable in Matt 21:28-32, the chief priests and Pharisees knew Jesus was teaching about them. (See Mk 12:45) In Matt 21:33, with what command does Jesus start the parable?

### **Possible answers**

1. A multitude of people...usually when "multitude" is used, there are so many it would have been difficult to count them all.
2. Verse 12 indicates the Pharisees well understood the message of the parable and knew it was against them. What would be the point of Jesus teaching in this manner if it couldn't be understood by His followers and disciples? Parables and other passages can also be understood by us. Don't ever give place to the lie that you can't understand the scriptures. God gave us a written record so we could know and understand the truth. The Holy Spirit is the Teacher of the child of God. He will show you the meaning of the scriptures, so that you can "rightly divide the Word of truth." (John 14:26, 2 Tim. 2:15)
3. "Hear." Jesus wasn't only saying listen with physical ears to what He said, but also, and more importantly, listen with the spiritual ears you 've been given. We need to listen to what the Lord says to us. He is speaking...Hebrews 3:7 "Today if you will hear [My] voice..."Let this word, "hear," be planted in your heart and let it bring forth change in your life.

Let's look at the parts of the parable, figure out what they represent, and see what Jesus was

teaching.

a. Owner of the vineyard --God the Father

b. The land-Israel Acts 7:3-The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country (D: around Iraq) and from your relatives, and come to a land (D: Israel) that I will show you.' Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He(God) moved him(Abraham) to this land in which you now dwell. And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him. But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress them four hundred years. 'And the nation (Egypt) to whom they will be in bondage I will judge,' said God, 'and after that they (the Hebrews) shall come out and serve Me in this place (Israel).'

Vineyard; vines--Israel, the people Isa. 5:1-7 Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it." For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

c. hedge--in order to insure growth; protected the vines and workers from stampeding or marauding animals or thieves. In Joshua 2:8-13, a woman named Rahab of Jericho recounts what her city had heard about how the God of the Hebrews had done miracles to bring the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt forty years earlier. This was part of the hedge of protection God formed around them. (Rahab) said to the men: "I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

d. wine vat--place of processing the grapes into wine with the expectation of a good result, a harvest

**e. tower--place of protection, storage and watching for enemies of the harvest Ps 61:1-3**  
**Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.**

f. vinedressers--chief priests and Pharisees, the religious leaders of Israel--people put in charge of

the vineyard and responsible for doing everything that the owner would want done

g. far country--heaven

h. servants sent by the owner--prophets and John the Baptist

i. actions of the vinedressers: betrayed the owner--beating the servants of the owner, throwing stones, wounding them, killing some...Jeremiah 7:23-25 But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.' Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them.

**Jer. 25:4-6 And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.'**

**Jer 7:26-28 Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers. "Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you. "So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction.**

j. beloved son of the owner- - Jesus...they killed him to steal His inheritance

In this parable, Jesus gave the multitude of people there the prophecy He had given His disciples previously about His death at the hands of the religious leaders of Israel, those who had the responsibility of protecting the people spiritually and guiding them to the Lord, not away from Him. Read Matt. 23:23-39 for Jesus' description of the religious leaders, the vinedressers of Israel.

When will the owner come and what will he do to those who had become his enemies? After harvest time and after an accounting is given, he will destroy them Acts 3:22-23 For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

**Luke 19:27 ... bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.'**"

In John 15, Jesus used the analogy of the grape vine again, but this time referring to His relationship to His followers. Jesus is the True Vine and we are the branches. John 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman...Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

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