

Mark 12-13

Jesus' Parable of the Tenants (vs. 1-12)

1. To whom is Jesus telling this parable? Read Isaiah 5:1-7. Whom does the vineyard represent? Which character represents Jesus?
2. Hiring tenant farmers to work one's farm was a common practice in Jesus' day. Receiving some of the crop was the owner's right and responsibility in order to retain ownership. Which characters in the parable clearly represent Jesus' listeners, and why are they so offended?
3. Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23 at the end of the parable. The word *capstone* literally means "head of the corner." The Hebrew word for "corner" was sometimes used as a metaphor for leader or ruler. What is Jesus saying about himself by quoting this scripture?
4. According to Jeremiah 25:4-7, whom has God, the vineyard owner, sent repeatedly to his "tenant farmers," and what has been their response over and over again? What's the application for all of us in view of this parable? For you, specifically?

Jesus Is Put to the Test (vs. 13-34)

5. The Herodians were a powerful, secular group of people, loyal to the dynasty of Herod and often in conflict with the religious leaders of Israel (Pharisees, Sadducees, priests and teachers of the law). What does their collaboration with the Pharisees say about Israel's spiritual leaders? What are they hoping Jesus will do or say?
6. How does Jesus turn the question back on his questioners with his answer?
7. The Sadducees were a small but influential Jewish party who did not believe in life after death (resurrection), which put them at odds with the Pharisees. What is their question intended to reveal about Jesus? What does Jesus' response reveal about the Sadducees instead? What does it reveal about God?
8. What do Jesus and the teacher of the law (from verse 28) agree on? What does Jesus say about this man (vs. 34), and what do you think he means?
9. What would it look like in your life to love the Lord with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength? How can you love your "neighbor" as yourself this week?

Who Is The Christ? (vs. 35-44)

10. The Jews knew, because of many Old Testament scriptures, that the Messiah would be a "son" (descendant) of king David. According to Psalm 110:1, quoted here by Jesus, what else is true about the Messiah?
11. What attitudes and behaviors, exemplified in the teachers of the law, does Jesus warn the people against? What consequences are predicted for people who live this way? Why do you think that will be the case?
12. Why do you think Mark includes the story of the poor widow right here? How does it relate to previous verses in this chapter?
13. What effect do Jesus' words have on you personally? (i.e. encouragement, conviction, gut check)

Jesus Speaks of the End (13:1-37)

14. What does the disciple draw Jesus' attention to, and how does Jesus respond?
15. Can you relate to the disciples' wanting to know when the "end" will come, and how we'll know that it's coming? What does Jesus say in response to their question?
16. Biblical prophecy often has a relatively near future fulfillment and a more distant future fulfillment. Do you think Jesus intended for his disciples to know which was which? What similar phrases do you see repeated throughout these verses?

17. What are some of the things Jesus warns his disciples not to be deceived about?
18. What are some of the promises in Jesus' prophecy? Which one is most encouraging to you?

Sermon Notes

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Title: _____ **Passage:** _____

What I needed to hear today: (something to remember, put into practice, change in my thinking, change in my behavior)