

Recap of 11/22/20 message (Chris Sommerfield – Mark 11:27-12:12):

The Parable of the Tenant Farmers

I. DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST SHOULD RECOGNIZE HIS AUTHORITY

A. The religious leaders challenge Jesus' authority for His ministry. (11:27-33)

1. Their question is not sincere in nature, but accusatory. It shows their desire to maintain their own authority.

2. They are immediately caught by Jesus' response. They cannot say John the Baptist's authority was from

Heaven, because they'd be admitting that Jesus' authority is also from Heaven. Nor could they say it was

from men, because the people believed John to be a true prophet and they feared the people.

B. We can overlook Jesus' authority in our lives too. We sometimes reason among ourselves to find the stopping

point for His authority so we can exercise our own. Everything we have, everything we are, and everything we

do belongs to the LORD and falls under His authority. Submitting ourselves joyfully more and more to His

authority is a central part of the Christian life and characterizes growth toward spiritual maturity.

(So, if Jesus has

authority in our lives, what is our responsibility?)

II. DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PRODUCE FRUIT

A. With the context of Jesus' authority framed, He moves into the parable. (12:1)

1. The setting of the parable is parallel to the setting of Isaiah 5, which tells of Israel's unfaithfulness and coming

judgement. This is something the religious leaders of Jesus' day would likely have recognized immediately.

2. The vineyard is a common allusion to Israel. The fence was related to the law, that which kept them separate

unto God. The tower was representative of the temple, and the wine press was the altar.

B. The owner of the vineyard is the one that decides when the right time is to collect the fruit. (12:2)

C. The escalating hostility toward the owner's representatives is tantamount to outright rebellion. (12:3-5)

1. The slaves are meant to allude to the prophets that have been sent to Israel.

2. The most recent prophet, John the Baptist, had recently been beheaded.

D. Finally, the Son is sent, and he is treated worst of all. (12:8)

1. God's son is before their very eyes and they do not recognize His authority

2. The prophets have been ignored, beaten, and killed, and as Jesus tells this parable, He knows the time is

drawing near for His own death.

E. The owner punishes the wicked tenants for their unfaithfulness and rebellion. (12:9)

F. Jesus drives home the point of His authority by quoting Psalm 118 and making it a messianic reference to

Himself. (12:10-11)

III. DISCIPLES OF JESUS MUST CONTINUE TO PRODUCE FRUIT AND BE READY FOR THE HARVEST

A. First and foremost, a proper response to this parable should be placing one's faith in Jesus Christ unto

salvation.

B. Second, disciples of Jesus can continue to produce fruit in the midst of spiritual stagnation by being in regular

community. Christian community helps us see our blindspots on our journey.

C. Third, we can produce fruit by using our spiritual gifts to serve our community, building up the people of God

and strengthening the community as a whole.

D. Fourth, we can continue to produce fruit by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ with those who do not

know Him. In this we join with Him as He grows His kingdom and prepares for the harvest.