

# Sermon Guide



## **"The Stone Rejected"** **November 13th, 2022**

"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.' "

1. Throughout the gospels, Jesus' main message was, "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The word repent means "to change your mind." Reflect on the word "repent." Over the last few months, is there an area God changed your mind in accordance with His precepts?
2. In the parable of the tenants, the vineyard tenants harm or kill all the messengers that come from the Master of the House. When the tenants see the son coming, they decide they want the son's inheritance. As is the case with parables, the story Jesus tells conveys a deeper meaning. Jesus is the Son, and He has a great inheritance. Greg said that, while Jesus could have chosen not to share His inheritance with us, He instead offers us what is rightfully His. What is Jesus' inheritance? What comes to mind?
3. Greg said that prostitutes are the morally lowest of the low. On the other side of the spectrum, tax collectors are the richest of society, and their riches come from corruption. Yet, Jesus says that prostitutes and tax collectors enter the Kingdom of Heaven if they repent. As you consider this, are there people you are tempted to believe could not repent and enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Why?
4. Greg referenced the story of the woman at the well. After her encounter with Jesus, she goes back to her village and says, "everything you said about me was true. And this man, Jesus, told me everything I ever did." Because of her testimony, the village believed. Have you experienced a similar moment in which someone's repentance deeply stirred your faith in Jesus? What happened?

**We often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus.** As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to?