

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title
The Easter Cure
Luke 20:9-17

Slide 2:
Luke 20:9-17

And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’?”

Slide 3:
The Story of the Magnificently Benevolent Land Owner and His Faithfully Obedient Son

Slide 4:
The Problem (Virus) is the Default Setting of our Hearts
(We Think We Are Owners)

Slide 5:
The Symptom of the Virus can be seen in the Way We Treat His Messengers

Slide 6:
The Fact That We Cannot Control Life is not Proof of an Unloving God.
It is Proof That There IS a God.

Slide 7:
What Will The Owner Do?

Slide 8:
The Resurrection is Proof That There Is a Deeper Magic

Slide 9:
Ephesians 2:15,16

"that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (virus)."

Slide 10:

The Deeper Magic is That The Virus Was The Means through which a Cure was Offered!

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Please read the Parable found in Luke 20:9-19. What are the angles to this parable? Who is the land owner? The messengers? The tenants? What are some of the many points that Jesus could be stressing to His listeners?
2. The Great Virus (Original Sin) is believing that we are the "owners." Explain this sin from the perspective of the original lie in the Garden of Eden that the first humans believed, which their children assume.
3. In what ways do you assume ownership?
4. One of the symptoms of that Great Virus can be seen in how we "treat" messengers. How does science or naturalism treat messengers? How is it also abusive to simply explain them away? What are other ways we abuse or dismiss the messengers?
5. Pastor Don said that the inability to control life is actually proof that there is an owner, and that we are simply tenants. If someone tried to use the seeming randomness of evil as a way to prove that God does not exist, how could you use that same argument to make a case for the existence of God?
6. In order to defeat a virus, the virus is used to defeat itself. How does this work out in the Gospel. How did God use "hatred" to defeat itself?
7. Prayer and praise.