

On Sharing – Mark 12:1-12

This parable must be seen in light of the religious leaders challenging Jesus' authority and their desire to "destroy" him. Jesus often spoke in parables as a means to reveal a certain situation and to show a universal truth.

Read Mark 12:1

In this parable, take time to track who each character represents. This is only one verse, but who do you think the "man" represents? Why? Who do the tenants represent? Why?

Jesus is using the relationship between the tenants and a landlord to reveal a truth. What kind of landlord is the man? How can you tell?

Does it surprise you that the man gave this sort of freedom to the tenants? What kind of freedom do we have in Christ?

Read Mark 12:2-8

From an emotional perspective, how does this parable make you feel? Why?

Who might the servants represent? Who is the son?

What does it say about the "man" that he went away and trusted others with his vineyard? What does it say about renters that they reacted in this way?

Why do the renters behave in this way?

They kill the son thinking they will now have authority. This is delusional thinking. In what ways do we think we can "outsmart" God?

Read Mark 12:9-12

We find out that the religious leaders were there listening to this message. They were not able to hear the warning. In very ironic terms, they understood what Jesus was saying, but did not respond well.

What does it take for you to change course? What would someone have to say to you for you to change an ingrained life direction?

How would you feel if you thought you were serving God but found out that you were on a bad path? How can we know if we are on a bad path?

Think about the logical outcome of your actions. What does the outcome of our actions reveal about the integrity of our life direction?