

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

## "THE MURDER OF THE OWNER'S SON" | LUKE 20:9 – LUKE 20:26 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

***What is your favorite story, either from experience or one you've heard/seen, about a landlord?***

### ***"The Parable of the Wicked Tenants" (Luke 20: 9-18)***

Jesus tells a parable about a vineyard with some tenants who abuse messengers from the owner and then kill the owner's son, which results in judgment for the tenants. **When God keeps sending messengers and finally His own Son to the Jews despite all the rejection, what does that show about Him?**

Jesus quotes scripture about the stone that has been rejected has become the cornerstone that sets and lines up the whole foundation. **What are practical ways to line up your life to Jesus that show He is the foundation?**

### **"Paying Taxes to Caesar" (Luke 20: 19-26)**

Some people try to trap Jesus with a question about taxes and Jesus answers with an object lesson with a coin by saying "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's". **What are ways Christ followers can be good citizens and live for God?**

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

In both the parable and the interaction with the crowd, Jesus shows that God should be in charge. Sometimes that means being broken before Him, sometimes that means being a good citizen. Building our lives on Jesus as the foundation is key for all of it. **Have you been resisting being a good citizen lately? Have you been resisting God's authority lately? Is there a change you need to make to show Jesus is your foundation? Pray for God's wisdom and power to line up your life to His authority.**

## THE MURDER OF THE OWNER'S SON

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-11 **Lar:** Missions Prayer. **CR.** CK. Easter/Crosswalk. Fresh Faith. **Women's Retreat.** Men's Breakfast. **EVPC.**
- B. Slide12 **3rd Bernad Family Baby Ded:** *Emma Ruth.* Christian & Erica Bernad.
- C. Slide13 Micah/Minor prophet: Starts this Wed. *What Does the Lord Require of You?*

### II. Slide14 **Intro:** *The Murder of the Owner's Son* (Phillip Ryken coined)

- A. Would you like to hear God tell us a story about **Himself**?
  1. He's telling us a story about *the Bible on a whole*.
  2. This parable is **God's Cliff Notes** to the Big Picture. Listen w/that in mind.
- B. **Prayer:** *Lord, this morning break our **pride** to pieces. Show no mercy on our **arrogance**. Stomp out our **self-centeredness**. We choose to fall on you.*

### III. Slide15,16 **THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS (9-18) READ**

- A. Their **Rejection** of Jesus would *Ultimately Result* in **His Death** (9-16)
- B. This is actually more like an **allegory** than a parable. We normally say in parables it's only about 1 point (many people take parables too far/over spiritualize).
  1. **But** in this one, each 1 of the different characters **do represent someone**.
  2. **The vineyard Owner** = God. **The Vineyard** = Israel (common metaphor, used in Is.5, Ps 80, by: Asaph, Ezek, Jer, Hosea).  
**The tenants** = the religious leaders (they were supposed to **care for** this vineyard **and** help it to **bear fruit** unto God).
- C. Each of the servants, *one by one*, represent **the prophets** God had sent to Israel.
  1. **Jeremiah** was beaten and put in stocks. **Isaiah** was sawn in two. **Zachariah** was stoned in the temple. In **Neh.9** he said **they put Gods Law behind their backs, and killed the prophets**.

D. Do you hear the *patience* of God in this? Do you realize **He** never needed to send more than 1 prophet? (and yes, **He** didn't owe us even that 1)

1. **But** he kept sending *prophet after prophet*, even though they kept *rejecting and mocking and shaming and* even **killing** the prophets.
2. What a reminder of *any persecution* that we may face, *there have been so many that have gone before us.*
3. **We can't be surprised by opposition to Gods word.** That's why He says in the beatitudes about *being persecuted for righteousness sake*. You're actually in a great company of honor. It's the *history, trend, pattern.*

E. *They knew what was required as the renters/tenants of the field.* Just as you do when you *rent a car, an apartment, or something from a rental yard.*

1. He was coming to collect **His share** of the crop.

F. *And then the Owner* sends His only Son, which of course is **Jesus** [Owners crowning Effort]

1. **Threw Him out of the vineyard** (15) Jesus predicting *His own death.*
2. Heb.13:11-16 11 *For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp.* 12 *So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.* 13 *Therefore let us go to him outside the camp* (for the Jews, outside Judaism. for us, outside religiosity) *and bear the reproach he endured.* 14 *For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.* 15 *Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.* 16 *Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

G. (16) **He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others** - i.e. the gospel will go to *the gentiles, the nations.*

H. You will face the judgment of God if you **reject the stone.**

1. Everyone who **rejects** the cornerstone, **rejects God the Father.** He is either the **received** beloved Son/Cornerstone, or He is the **rejected stone**

2. You realize the murder of the Son was **the final rejection** of the Owner.

a) The nations rejection cost the nation **excommunication**. The kingdom would go to **new tenants!** [How are the new tenants doing?]

I. (16) **Surely not!** - (nlt) *How terrible that such a thing should ever happen, his listeners protested.* (msg) *Those who were listening said, Oh, no! He'd never do that!*

J. Their **Rejection** of Jesus had **Solemn and Eternal Consequences** (17,18)

K. From **rejected Stone** to **Chief Cornerstone** ... I think they received their answer to **authority** from last week. Here is Christ's clear claim to **Supreme Authority**.

1. **Side note:** all would be singing this w/in a few hours (the Hallel Ps.113-118).

L. The Cornerstone is a beautiful image. Israel is full of stone.

1. **Slide17** They knew how **important** the Cornerstone was. It's **stability/** foundation, its **alignment** for a straight wall.

a) **Build your whole life on Jesus**, and allow Him to **align/direct** the whole course of your life. And realize *nothing else* can be **cornerstone** in your life.

M. If you have Him as your foundation stone, your **alignment stone**, then he answers all of life's questions. Like, "*who am I, who are we, what's our purpose?*"

1. **Jesus answers all of these:** **Who am I** - my life is **identified** and **wrapped up** in that **Stone**. **Who are we?** - We are stones in Gods temple attached to Him. **What's are purpose?** - as His holy temple, we are to **worship** and **witness** to the glory of **our King**.

a) **See** if you get this wrong: you get your **identity** wrong, your **community** wrong, and your **purpose** wrong. **Is He** your Cornerstone?

N. **Slide18a** (18) In this verse God offers us a choice of **brokenness-es**.

1. Those who **cast themselves** on **Jesus**, **submitting their wills and all they are too Him**.

a) **They will be broken by Him:** of pride, arrogance, hard-heartedness, and self-centeredness. It's a **not a pleasant** process **but** a very **necessary** one.

2. But for those who *do not* submit to him, He will ultimately *fall on them* (an experience *infinitely worse*, which the bible says will be *crushing*).

a) The choice is yours: broken *before Him* or *crushed by Him*.

O. Slide18b When *the will of God* crosses *the will of man*, somebody has to *die*.

1. Andrew Murray, *God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him*.

P. **Two battleships** assigned to the training squadron had been at sea on maneuvers in heavy weather for several days. I was serving on the **lead battleship** and was on watch on the bridge as night fell. The visibility was poor with patchy fog, so the captain remained on the bridge keeping an eye on all activities. **Shortly after dark**, the lookout on the wing reported, "**Light, bearing on the starboard bow.**" "**Is it steady or moving astern?**" the captain called out. The lookout replied, "**Steady, Captain,**" which meant we were on a dangerous collision course with that ship. The captain then called to the signalman, "Signal that ship: 'We are on a collision course, advise you change course twenty degrees.' Back came the signal, "**Advisable for you to change course twenty degrees.**" The captain said, "Send: 'I'm a **captain**, change course twenty degrees.'"**"I'm a seaman second-class,**" came the reply. "**You had better change course twenty degrees.**" By that time the **captain** was furious. He spat out, "Send: 'I'm a **battleship**. Change course twenty degrees.'"**Back came the flashing light, "I'm a lighthouse."**...*We changed course!*

1. Will you stay on your same course? Choose to change your course today.

#### IV. Slide19,20 **PAYING TAXES TO CAESAR (19-26)** *READ*

A. Slide21a **Their Deceit** (19-22)

B. Well, perfect timing 3 weeks before April 15th :)

C. 2 attempts to set Jesus up: **1st** by flattery. **2nd** by asking him a double-edged question.

D. God is not opposed to government. He's not an anarchist. God has ordained *the family, the church, and the government*. The state has the right to impose taxes. We



have the responsibility to pay them, and to obey the laws. Peter and Paul expand on these conversations, even when Nero was in leadership in Rome.

E. **Their Defeat** (23-26)

F. **Craftiness** - **to affirm** would alienate Him from **the Jews** who were against this tax. **To deny** the lawfulness of this tax would bring **Roman** wrath upon Him.

1. So Jesus hits them right between *the horns of their dilemma*.

G. **Slide 21b** Show me a denarius (24) – show pic.

1. **On the obverse** (main side of coin) was the image of **Tiberius** *Julius Caesar* *Augustus*

a) **Quick history**: emperor was a *religious office* under the *early Roman Republic*, but beginning with **Caesar Augustus** (1st emperor of the Roman Imperial Period), the *religious side* started to subside. Yet ...

2. **On the reverse** was the inscription **Pontif**(ex) **Maxim**(us) [Chief Pontif/ Priest, or **Supreme Priest**] [His face on one side, his title on the other. *mom Livia* seated]

a) The pontifices were the ones who *smoothed the "bridge" between gods and men*.

H. This was an **annual poll tax**. (Romans began to impose this in 6 ad)

1. **The imposition of this tax** led to a Jewish rebellion under **Judas the Galilean** in **Acts 5:37**.

2. Romans required the payment of the tax **w/a special coin** imprinted w/a likeness of the emperor. **Use of this coin** angered the Jews.

I. **Give to each what they deserve**.

J. (25) **One of Jesus' boldest statements!** - He is saying *Caesar isn't God* (like he had inscribed on his coins). Only **God is sovereign**.

1. Wrap Up: **The coin** bears Caesars image, *give him your coin*.  
*You bear* Gods image, *give Him your life*.

K. **Whose image & superscription is upon you?**

1. The **Greatest Potentate** is stamped upon every human life ... God Himself. *We have been made in the image & likeness of God*.

a) The **superscription** on every human life is that God alone is ***Pontifex Maximus/Supreme Priest*** (Heb.3:1; 4:14,15; 5:5; 5:10 *being designated by God a high priest*; 6:20)

2. **Slide22** Thus He said in effect, *As is the coin to Caesar, so are you to God.*

a) Give to Caesar what's his, but don't forget to give to God what is His.

b) **So what's God's?** [Everything I have, everything I am]

c) If you live under a God's rule. If you are protected by your God. If you are using God's power & gifts. Then, you are in debt to God under which you live and enjoy His benefits.

L. Keywords: prophets, son, cornerstone, taxes.