

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!***

"MURDER IN THE VINEYARD" | MARK 12:1-12 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is story or movie that involves a murder mystery that comes to mind?

"The Kindness of God and the Patience of God" Mark 12: 1-5

Jesus shares a parable of an owner who builds a vineyard and provides for it to flourish and leaves it to tenants. These tenants beat and kill servants of this owner, yet he keeps giving them second chances. **What does God's provision and patience show about His heart? What are ways God gives second chances to people today?**

"The Love of God" Mark 12: 6-8

The owner's son is described as beloved and yet he is sent, knowing how dangerous the tenants are. The tenants kill the son. **How is the owner sending his son show love to the tenants?**

"The Severity of God" Mark 12: 9

The owner will destroy the tenants and gives the vineyard to others for the murder of his son. **What does delayed judgment show about God? How has God shown you patience and mercy?**

"The Triumph of God and the Grace of God" Mark 12: 10-12

Jesus then shows how this parable connects to a prophecy about a stone that is rejected becoming the cornerstone, warning of rejecting Him because He died for His enemies. **Have you rejected Jesus as your foundation or are you building your life on Him?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Brian summarizes this passage by sharing "The gospel is the story of a Father who kept reaching out, a Son who was rejected and killed, and a God who turned that rejection into the foundation of our redemption". **Have you been living as grateful tenant or an entitled owner? What keeps you from receiving God's grace? Thank God for His kindness, patience, love and praise Him for His Triumph and Grace this week.**

Jesus Journal: Write down at least one thing about Jesus that impressed you in the passage and message.

Murder in the Vineyard

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online.
- B. Slide1-5 AP: REAL Tues. Summer Donations. CG. @Risk. CK/Youth Summer Events
- C. Slide6-10 Bri/Lar: Building Update - Giving Update.
- D. Slide11 Prayer:

II. Slide12 Intro: *Murder in the Vineyard*

- A. **Fruit** was the issue last chapter also. (i.e. Fig Tree & Temple cleansing) *Continues Theme.*
- B. **6 points** that form *a nice arc* in this parable from **God's Kindness to God's Grace**.
 - 1. It's a story of God's relentless love, human rebellion, and the triumph of grace *through* the rejected Son.
- C. Parables: Lk (27) - Mt (21) - Mark (only 8) [usually conceal truth-*they understood* this 1 plainly]
- D. When it came to **sinners Jesus** was so *gentle* in talking with them. **But** ...
 When it came to the **religious leaders**, **He** pulls no punches. Because their *bad moralistic theology corrupted* not only themselves, **but all** of their followers.
 - 1. **So** before they leave the temple mount, Jesus gives *this group* from 11:27 (*chief priest, scribes, elders*—the Sanhedrin interrogators). A quick review of Israel's history & **A warning of the consequences of their hostile intentions.**
- E. Slide13 **Read** 12:1-12.

III. Slide14 [1] **THE KINDNESS OF GOD (1)**

- A. God is the landowner who lovingly prepares everything for **life** and **fruitfulness**.
 - 1. **Read** Isaiah 5 where **Jesus** *lifted it from*. **He gives every advantage** to His people.
 - 2. **God** is **not** stingy. He sets us up to **thrive**. [here He uses it for Israel's *rel leaders*]
- B. **Application:** Look at all God has given **you**—**His provision** reveals His heart.

1. Are you living as a **grateful tenant** or an **entitled owner**?

IV. Slide15 [2] **THE PATIENCE OF GOD (2-5)**

- A. **Despite repeated rebellion, God keeps reaching out.** *God doesn't give up easily on His people.*
- Each **servant** represents a **prophet** - who were *mistreated, ignored, or killed*.
- B. The owner usually received/demanded 1/3 to 1/2 the produce. It was also **not** uncommon for **rent collectors** to *be treated badly*.
- Time and again God had sent prophets to Israel to gather fruits of **repentance** and **righteousness** but His prophets were *abused, wounded, and killed*.
 - Jer.7:25,26 nlt **From the day your ancestors left Egypt until now, I have continued to send my servants, the prophets - day in and day out. But my people have not listened to me or even tried to hear. They have been stubborn and sinful - even worse than their ancestors.**
- C. **So** here we have the *sad rejection* of **God's messengers** - **before** the *sad rejection* of **God's Son** - **and still today** the *sad rejection* of **Christians living in, or missionaries called to, hard access countries.** (some **verbal**, some w/**beatings**, some in **prison**, some **death**). [as Raul Boza shared yesterday re: the Persecuted church]
- Look closely at *one more way* Jesus shows **His patient love** ... **It could be viewed as a **lack of love** for His children, **OR** It could be viewed as **such a radical love** for the lost.*
 - Unheard of for **the owner** to have been **so patient**. **But God** wouldn't turn His back on the world; He continued sending servant after servant. *(What persistent love!)*
- D. **Application:** How many times has God come **knocking** in your life? What does **His patience** tell you about **His heart** toward sinners? How is God patient w/you **presently**?

V. Slide16a [3] **THE LOVE OF GOD (6-8)**

- A. The phrase *beloved son* echoes Jesus' baptism and transfiguration (Mark 1:11; 9:7).
- God doesn't send His Son out of **obligation**, **but** out of **love**.
- B. **Jesus** stands in succession to the great prophets of old, **BUT** is distinct from them.

1. Slide16b (Spurg) If you **reject** Him, He answers you with **tears**. If you **wound** Him He bleeds out **cleansing**. If you **kill** Him, He dies to **redeem**. If you **bury** Him, He rises again to bring **res**. **Jesus is love made manifest**.
 2. Jesus enters the vineyard knowing **He will be rejected** (in only 3 days).
- C. Jesus was **God's ultimatum**; nothing remains when Christ is *refused*.
1. Slide16c **God** the greatest Giver - **so loved** the greatest motive - **the world** the greatest need - **that He gave** the greatest act - **His only Son** the greatest gift - **that whosoever** the greatest invitation - **believes in Him** the greatest opportunity - **should not perish** the greatest deliverance - **but have eternal life** the greatest joy.
- D. **Application**: The cross wasn't an accident ... it was **love in motion**. Have you truly received the love of the Son?

VI. Slide17a [4] **THE SEVERITY OF GOD (9)**

- A. **Rejection has consequences**. God's judgment is real—but **but** it's never rash. It comes after **long-suffering mercy**.
1. Jesus is warning the religious leaders—and all who **reject the Son**.
- B. The leaders actually answered the question themselves - *condemning themselves*.
1. It's in Mt.21:41 ***They said to Him, He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.*** Here in Marks account He repeated their solemn verdict. [fulfilled only a few decades later].
- C. Slide17b **Application**: Don't confuse God's **patience** with **permission**. Judgment delayed is still judgment coming.

VII. Slide18 [5] **THE TRIUMPH OF GOD (10,11)**

- A. Though **rejected**, Jesus becomes **the very foundation** of **salvation**.
1. God turns **the world's worst evil** into **His greatest good**.
 2. You **can't stop** God's plan—you can only **receive it** or **resist it**.

- B. Jesus now changed the metaphor from **vineyard** to **building**. The picture is of builders who **threw aside** a particular stone as they built, which turns out to be **vital** to the whole building.
1. Ever set aside a **puzzle piece** that seemed *useless* to you in the beginning, **but then** when you found it, it completed the puzzle?
- C. **Application:** The **gospel** is not about avoiding God's judgment, it's about standing on the Cornerstone, **Jesus**. Is He your foundation?

VIII.Slide19a [6] **THE GRACE OF GOD (12)**

- A. **They knew** Is.5. **They heard** this prophecy that **He knew** they were going to kill him.
- B. **Even after** this direct confrontation, **Jesus *doesn't*** destroy them! - **He keeps walking** the road to the cross.
1. **The grace of God** is that the **rejected** Son dies for the very ones who **rejected** Him. That still can include *these religious leaders* & includes **us**.
- C. **Wow**, what **love** and **patience** - oh and **kindness**, and **triumph**, and **grace** ... **and severity** as the *only other* option.
1. **Slide19b** The **gospel** is the story of a **Father** *who kept reaching out*, a **Son** *who was rejected and killed*, and a **God** *who turned that rejection into the foundation of our redemption*.
- D. **Application:** There's **still grace** for those who've *rejected* Jesus. **The story isn't over.** **Grace** is still available—receive it today.
- E. ***AFTER 3RD SERVICE ONLY** - Chair removal for VBS - See Jasmine/Tony.
- F. Keywords: love, patience, kindness, vineyard.