

## Good News, Great Joy, All People

“A Call to Respond”

Luke 20:9-19

### Growth Group Discussion Guide

**Opening Question** (get everyone involved in discussion):

- ❖ Begin your time together with a moment of silence, then pray and ask for God’s Spirit to shape us through his word.
- ❖ How do you feel about having to make a weighty decision in a limited time? Do you have a process for helping you with such decisions? Feel free to share an example of a time you had to do this.
  - Today’s study deals with the need to respond to Jesus.

**1. Once again, the preceding context is important. Read Luke 20:1-2, and discuss the following.**

- Who has Jesus been speaking with in the temple courts? What is the nature of his words?
- With what question are the Jewish leaders preoccupied? Why?
  - Jesus answers their question, while also targeting the common people, in the parable we’re considering today.

**2. Read Luke 20:9-16, and discuss the following.**

- In v. 9, what clue do you see as to who Jesus is primarily seeking to address through this parable?
- Invite your group to re-tell the basic plot of the parable.
  - Is there anything that makes the parable difficult to understand? Any cultural barriers?
  - How does this parable concisely tell the story of Israel’s history? Can you think of examples, based on your Old Testament knowledge, of when this kind of pattern had happened?
  - What do you make of the fact that the tenant farmers want to report to nobody? Does this observation have meaning for Jesus, as he tells the story?
  - **Read** Isaiah 5:1-7. How does this prophetic passage shed light on the meaning of Jesus’ parable?
- While Jesus is ultimately seeking to move the crowd to respond, he is also subtly answering the previous question asked by the Jewish leaders. In doing so, he addresses concepts of ownership and authority. How do you see these concepts in the parable? What do you think he is saying to the leaders here?
  - On Sunday, Pastor Josh said, “**Whatever God has entrusted to you, it is *from him and for him, and you are to use it for his purposes.***” How do you feel about this concept?
  - Would you agree that everything you have been put in charge of belongs to God, and he has the say over what you do with it? Why or why not?
  - What has God put you over? To what degree do you think your current handling of that stewardship is honoring God’s purposes?

- Back to the parable, what do you think of the patience of the land-owner? If this scenario were playing out in real life today, what would you say about his patience?
  - What is Jesus showing us about God's patience here?
  - How do you think Jesus would want us to respond to God's patience, as we hear the parable today?

### 3. Read 20:17-19, and discuss the following.

- Does v. 17a tell you anything about the primary audience of the story, or Jesus' desired outcome?
- The allusion in v. 17b is to Psalm 118:22. This verse is quoted multiple times by various New Testament authors. It was in the heart of an "enthronement psalm," used to celebrate the enthronement (or annual re-enthronement) of a king. Right in the middle of a coronation celebration is an acknowledgement of this important principle: **In God's economy, rejection precedes victory.**
  - How did this psalm point forward to what Jesus would accomplish?
  - Why do you think that Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22 at this specific moment? What is the intended effect?
- What impact does v. 18 have on you? What do you think is the point of the imagery?
  - If you have time, **read** Daniel 2:44-45. Jesus is here borrowing an image from Nebuchadnezzar's dream to convey that through his death and resurrection, he is ushering in the kingdom that will outlast all others.
- **Application:** If this last point is true, and v. 18 is intended to move people to respond, it is vital that one considers and responds to Jesus. Josh said it this way: **What you do with Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make.**
  - In what way do you feel that you need to respond to Jesus today, based on where you are in your journey currently?
  - What may keep you from responding that way?
  - Someone once said, "Confession is agreeing with what God already knows about you." How might confession be a fitting response?
  - What other insights do you feel that you gained through this passage? How might you act on those?

### Prayer:

- Pray about the things that have already been shared.
- Take a moment to share, and pray for any other needs that exist among your group members.
- Please be sure to pray for our brothers and sisters who are traveling in Israel this week (Josh, LJ, Taylor, Ken, Lauren, Jim, Mary, Basia, Dotty, and 14 others from Shelter Rock Church)—for health, safe travel, and openness to what God wants to show them.