

SAD HISTORY IN PARABLE
Mark 12.1–12

OUTLINE
16 May 2010

The story so far...

- a. The return of the King (Mark 11.1-10)
 - b. The King cleans House (11.11-21)
 - c. ... “by what authority are you doing these things?” (11.28)
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1. The owner’s patience
 - a. Israel is the vineyard of the LORD (Isaiah 5.1-9)
 - b. Sending prophet after prophet, sending His Son: “the foolishness of God” (1 Cor 1.18-25)
 2. The tenants’ foolishness
 - a. Refusing to yield fruit; Rejecting the Son: “This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.” (11.7)
 - b. Can one seize control of everything by pushing God out?
 3. The owner’s judgment
 - a. Judgment on the tenants: the vineyard given to others.
 - b. Vindication of the son/stone: a new temple not made with human hands, with the rejected son/stone as the centrepiece (Ps 118.22)

Conclusion

- a. What God required of Israel
- b. What God requires of the church

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AG STUDY #33
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STARTER:

When have you received bad news? What helped and what didn’t help in the way it was given?

STUDY:

1. In 11.27 the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law come asking a seemingly straightforward question about Jesus’ authority. What do Jesus’ reply and the subsequent discussion reveal about their motives?
2. Read Mark 12.1-12. Who is Jesus speaking this parable to?
3. Read Isaiah 5.1-9. Jesus’ parable didn’t need an explanation. No going back into the house to tell the disciples what it was all about; everybody who knew their OT could tell right away. There is no happy ending to this story. As it stands, it is pure tragedy. All that is left is judgment. It’s a terrifying picture of what happens if the people of God persistently reject the purpose for which God has called them. Who do the different characters in this parable represent?
4. How do the religious leaders react to this parable?
5. In verses 10-11 Jesus goes on to quote from Psalm 118 (v.22), the same psalm that excited worshipers were using when singing their hosannas a few days before (see Mark 11.9). In Jesus’ parable and His quote from Psalm 118, how are the son and the stone both rejected and both vindicated?

SUMMING UP:

The tenants were rejected because they did not yield fruit to God, to the point of rejecting God’s final envoy. Ask God to show you what fruit He requires from you, your AG, and your church today.