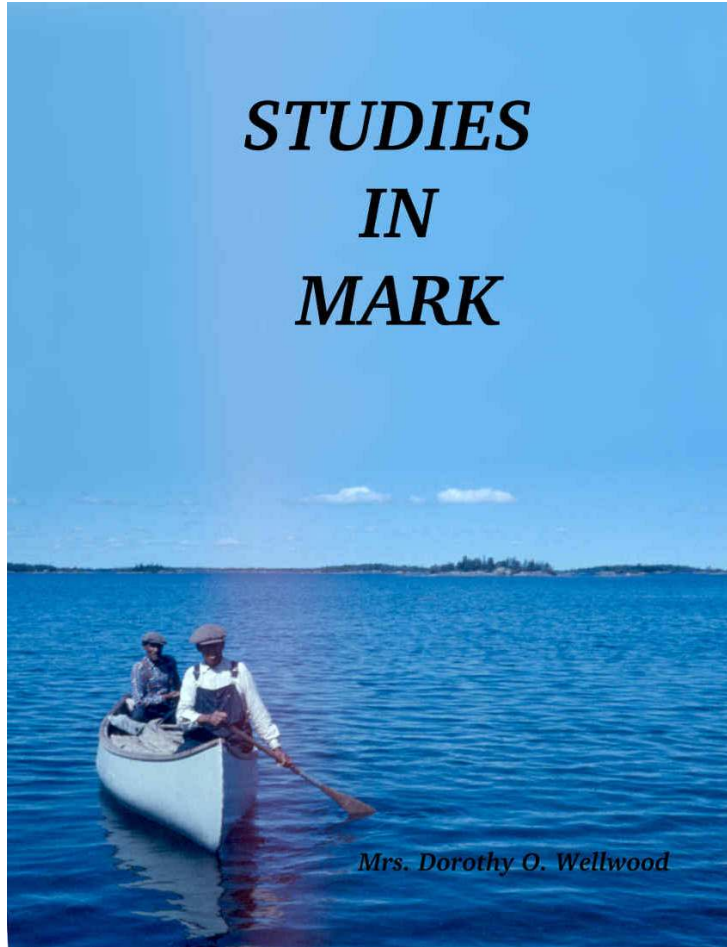


***STUDIES
IN
MARK***



LESSON 45

MARK 12:1-12

REVIEW:

In our last lesson three groups of men tried to trap Jesus. They always tried to do that. The devil worked behind these men. The devil always tried to hurt Jesus and His work. Mark 11:27 tells us who these men were:

1. The _____ .
2. The _____ .
3. The _____ .

Who really got caught in their trap? (verse 33) _____ .

READ MARK 12:1-9

THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD

In today's lesson Jesus tells a parable.

(A parable is a story with a hidden spiritual meaning.)

Jesus told the story to the men who were always trying to trap Him. The story is about a **vineyard**.

A **vineyard** is a garden of grape plants. When a man made a vineyard he looked for a sunny place with good ground. Then he dug up the ground and took away the stones. (Isaiah 5:2) Next he put a fence (hedge) around it to keep out the thieves and wild animals. Then he planted young grape vines about 7 or 8 feet apart. It took much work to make and take care of a vineyard. The owner hired men to take care of his vineyard.

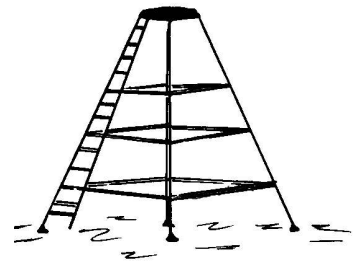
These men were called **husbandmen**.

Two things had to be built for the vineyard:

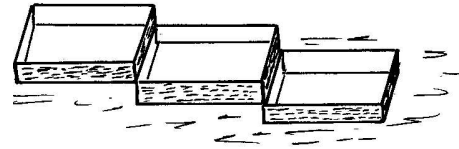
1. A stone tower was built in the middle of the garden.

(Mark 12:1) A man climbed up in the tower to watch. Men or

wild animals wanted to steal the grapes. Foxes and wild pigs used to spoil the grapes and the vines if they got through the fence.



2. A **winefat** or wine press was made to press the juice out of the grapes. Two or three stone tanks were joined together, one a little higher than the other.



Ripe grapes were thrown into the top tank. Then some people walked on the grapes with their bare feet. (Their feet were supposed to be very clean before they did this.) After the grapes were walked on, a board pressed out the juice. The juice ran down into the other tanks. Some of these old wine presses, thousands of years old, are still seen in Israel today.

A parable always has a hidden meaning. Fill in the blanks. See if you can think what the hidden meaning was in the story Jesus told.

1. Jesus began to talk to the people by _____ . (verse 1)
 "A certain man (the owner) planted a _____ and set on _____ around it, and _____ a place for the _____ , and built a _____ , and let it out (rented) it to _____ ."
2. Where did the man go after he made the vineyard? (verse 1)
 _____ .
3. At the time the grapes were ripe, the owner did not come for the grapes himself. Verse 2 says he sent a _____ to the husbandmen.
4. What did the husbandmen do to the servant? (verse 3) (1) they _____ him and (2) _____ him, and (3) _____ him away _____ .
 The wicked husbandmen kept all the owners grapes and grape juice for themselves.
5. The owner did not give up. He sent _____ to them. (verse 4)
6. What did the husbandmen do to the second servant? (verse 4) They threw _____ at him, and hurt his _____ , and _____ .
7. Did the good owner give up yet? (verse 5) _____ . And again he sent _____ and they _____ him. In fact the good owner sent many others, and they _____ some of them, and _____ some of them.

8. At last the owner decided to send someone else. Who did He send in verse 6?
His . How many sons did the man have? . How
did he feel about that only son? .

9. Why did the owner send his only, well-beloved son? (verse 6) He said
“They will my .”
(*Reverence means turn to him with respect.*)

10. The wicked husbandmen saw the son of the owner coming. They planned and
talked among themselves (verse 7) They said to each other,
“This is the ; come, let us him, and the shall be ours.”
When a man dies, his only son would be his **heir**. The son would get all that his
father owned, (the inheritance). The wicked husbandmen said, if they killed the son
everything would be theirs.

11. What did the husbandmen do to the father’s only son? (verse 8)

1) They him, and 2) him, and
him of the .

The wicked men who kept the vineyard hurt or killed all the owners servants. They
even killed his only son. Now, what will the owner do to those bad men? Jesus said
the Lord of the vineyard will come home and “ the husbandmen, and
the unto .” (verse 9)

After Jesus told that story the chief priests, scribes, and elders tried to catch
Jesus, but they could not. Why were they so angry at Jesus? Verse 12 tells us they
were afraid of the people. They knew that Jesus had spoken the parable .
They were very angry at Jesus but they could do nothing. They knew they were guilty.
They could do nothing, so verse 12 says they Him and

What was the hidden spiritual meaning in the story Jesus told?

1. The **owner** of the vineyard was God.
2. The vineyard, or grape garden should give God spiritual fruit.
The vineyard was God's chosen nation, the Children of Israel.
3. The husbandmen or caretakers were the chief priests, scribes, and elders.
They were the ones that should have taught God's people about Him and His Word. God wanted the fruit of love and praise and worship and obedience from His people, but He got nothing.
4. The **servants** were God's prophets and messengers. God had sent them to teach His people. When the people listened and obeyed, God got good fruit from their lives. Instead, the people killed and shamefully treated God's servants.
5. The **well-beloved** son in the story was God's only Son, Jesus. (John 3:16) It was God's own Son Who was telling them the story but they did not know Him. They had not killed Him yet, but Jesus knew there was murder in their hearts. He knew that the scribes, chief priests and elders would kill Him as soon as they got the chance.
6. Verse 9 says, "he will destroy the husbandmen and will give the vineyard unto others." God would turn from the Jewish nation, and give the Gospel to the Gentiles (*The Gentiles are all the people who are not Jews. We are not Jews. We are Gentiles.*) The Gospel is given to us now. This means God looks for us to give Him the good fruit He wants. When we become Christians, God expects the fruit of **love, worship, and obedience** and **praise** from our lives.

READ Mark 12:10,11,12

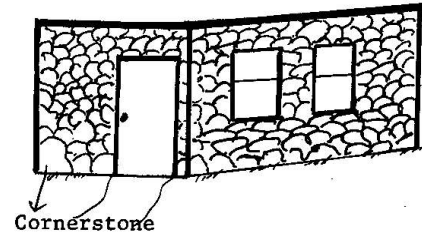
ANOTHER LITTLE PARABLE

1. Jesus now shows these religious leaders up for what they really are. Jesus asked in verse 10, "Have ye not _____ this _____?" They were supposed to teach the Bible, and they had not even read this part. At least they did not know what it meant.

2. This little parable is about a stone. What did Jesus say about a stone in verse 10? “The stone _____ is become the _____ of the corner.”

(Rejected means they threw it away as no good.)

When a builder made a stone building, he picked the best stone for the first corner. Jesus said that these builders did not know the best stone when they saw it. They threw it away.



READ Matthew 21:42,43; Acts 4:10-12; 1 Peter 2:7. Jesus taught in this parable that He is the chief cornerstone in God’s building. The builders were the chief priest, scribes and elders. They tried to throw Him away.

3. Who does the writer of Acts say is the head stone of the corner?
(Acts 4:10,11)

Who does Paul say was the chief cornerstone in God’s building?
(Ephesians 2:20)

Jesus plainly told his enemies that they did not know who He was. God had sent Jesus to be the chief cornerstone in His building (the spiritual church). The other stones in His building are all true Christians. Jesus’ enemies killed the One God sent to be their Chief.

This is what many are doing today, so there is no fruit for God in their lives.

4. Why did Jesus’ enemies let Him get away? (verse 12)

STUDIES IN MARK by Dorothy O. Wellwood.

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