

Marks of the Kingdom: Making Room for Stones  
Mark 12:1-12

## Mark 12

### The Parable of the Tenants

<sup>1</sup> Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. <sup>2</sup> At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. <sup>3</sup> But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup> Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. <sup>5</sup> He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

<sup>6</sup> "He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

<sup>7</sup> "But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' <sup>8</sup> So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

<sup>9</sup> "What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup> Haven't you read this passage of Scripture:

"The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
<sup>11</sup> the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes'[\[a\]](#)?"

<sup>12</sup> Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

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**Small Group Questions:**

- 1) What thoughts, feelings or questions are you holding after you read the text, or listened to the sermon?
- 2) Can you identify with any of the characters from the parable? Why?
- 3) Can you recall a time when God came to you (in a situation, person, etc) but you rejected it?
- 4) How do you typically respond when faced with "obstacles" in the way of your plans?
- 5) What are some of the "stones" that you have been kicking recently? What might God be trying to teach you?
- 6) Pete quoted Romans 9:33 (message translation). How do you hear these words?  
  
"Careful! I've put a huge stone on the road to Mount Zion,  
a stone you can't get around.  
But the stone is me! If you're looking for me,  
you'll find me on the way, not in the way."
- 7) What is the next step that you think God has for you in light of this message?
- 8) Take a few minutes to share prayer requests and close your time in prayer for one another.