

The Gospel of Luke: The Parable of the Tenants

Luke 20:1-19

February 11, 2024

the gospel according to

LUKE

Begin with Prayer

In silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then pray: *Empowering God, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit to move us to understanding; to help us to believe the gospel; to give us strength and wisdom to live by it. Amen.* (Worship Sourcebook Q.3.5.8)

Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a moment to check in with one another (2 minutes each).

1. *Why does February have two 'R's in it? State your case.*
2. *Have you ever used storytelling to share the gospel before?*

Introduction

*When we gather, our goal is to be a people apprenticed to the life of Jesus.
As you begin this week, remind your group to be respectful and non-judgmental.*

Listening to God's Word

Jesus came to bring the truth and make it known. This is evident not only in the life that Jesus lived but in the words that he shared. This week, we are examining how the religious leaders questioned Jesus' authority, whereas Jesus sought to set the record straight by sharing this parable, revealing God's redemption plan. As contemporary readers, it may seem easy to interpret what Christ is saying through the parable, and yet we still find ourselves confused by Jesus' and His authority in our lives. Let's dive into the word and see what God wants to teach us this week!

Small Group Discussion

Read Luke 20:1-19. Then discuss together:

- ***What is your first thought when you read through this passage?***
- There is a lot to unpack from this short parable. Jesus is alluding to the vineyard owner being God the Father. *What does this parable say about the vineyard owner?*
- After the two robbers came back beaten, *how do you think the son felt about being asked to go and ask for the payment?*
- *When was a time where God has called you to do something you may have not wanted to do?*
- The teachers of the law and the High Priests knew that Jesus spoke these words against them. *Have you felt God convict you of something that you have done and yet you try to brush it off? How can you be more open to receive God's loving convictions or corrections?*

- Jesus is telling this story to the people to help them understand what is to come. *Why do you think He chooses to do it like this instead of plainly telling them what is to come?*
- “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” *What do you think Jesus meant when He said this?*
- Christ is the cornerstone. *How do we see this practically lived out in our everyday lives?*
- ***How do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to or act on what we have read and discussed?***

Practices

The Jesus Prayer

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

~ A.W. Tozer

The Jesus Prayer truly helps to focus on Jesus wholistically by using five of His names and ends with our acknowledgment and need of His mercy as sinners. Get comfortable and find a position to spend several minutes using the following prayer. The Jesus Prayer uses the four essential elements of prayer; worship (Lord Jesus Christ), a confession of faith (Son of God), a plea for His beneficence (Have mercy on me), and an act of penance (A sinner). Recite the following;

Inhale: Lord Jesus Christ,

Exhale: Son of the Living God,

Inhale: Have mercy on me,

Exhale: A sinner.

Repeat this exercise for 4-5 minutes, slowing down your breathing and thoughts, and allowing Jesus to share the truth of who He is and the mercies He gives.

After a time of silent prayer and reflection, share your experience with the group.

Caring for One Another

- *Suggest a prayer request that is related to the topic we’ve discussed.*
- ***Do you or your family have a need that the Life Group can help meet?***

Using **the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)** as a guide, based on what you’ve shared together, spend time listening to God and praying for one another.