

What was the religious leaders response to this parable by Jesus? Verse 12 says, **The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the crowd, so they left him and went away.** (NLT) Jesus used this story as opportunity to warn the Jewish leaders, but they would not hear. They continued in their plans to silence and ultimately kill Jesus. But for you today, you must consider your own heart. How have you responded to God? How have you responded to His messengers and His message? God is patient, loving, just and gracious. I want to encourage you to respond with repentance, worship, obedience, and faith.

TAKEAWAY

Discussion Questions—Mark 12:1-12

1. Who are the main characters in the parable, and what do they represent?
2. What does this parable reveal about God's patience and persistence with His people?
3. How does the sending of the son point to Jesus' role and mission?
4. Why is the quotation from Psalm 118 ("the stone the builders rejected...") important in this passage?
5. What does the parable teach about human responsibility versus God's authority?
6. In what ways might we be tempted to act like the tenants—resisting God's rightful ownership of our lives?
7. What warnings and encouragements does this parable give the church today?

ANSWERS: 1) parable; 2) applies

SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Week 31: The Parable of the Vine-growers (Mark 12:1-12)



THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

(Core doctrines of the Christian faith in a question-and-answer format)

Question #9: What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

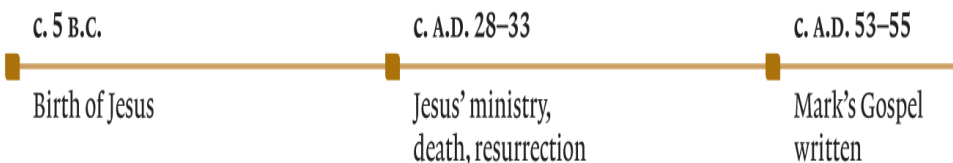
Answer: First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works.

Deuteronomy 6:13–14

"It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you."

Key memory verse: Mark 10:45 (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"



OUTLINE

The Presentation of the servant	The servant's ministry in Galilee	The servant's journey to Jerusalem	The servant's ministry in Jerusalem
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-9:50	Mark 10	Mark 11-16

AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

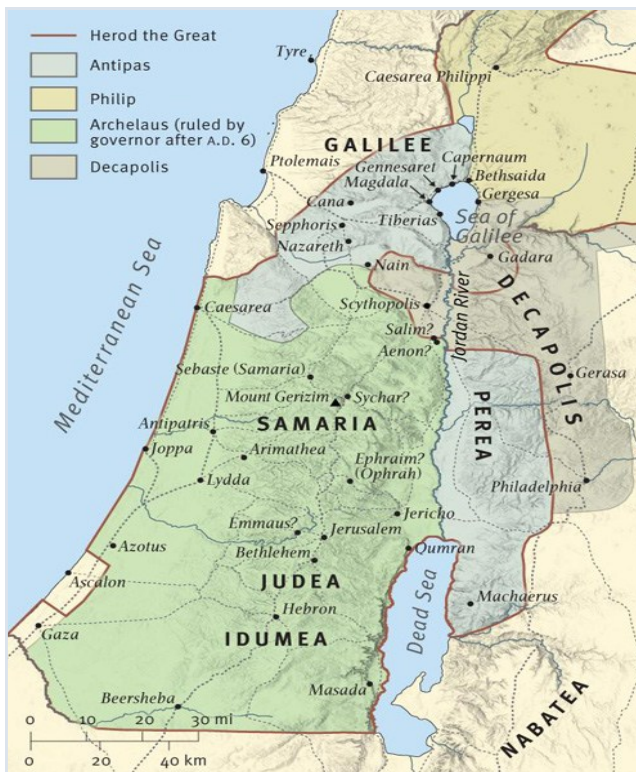
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). Mark's audience, largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs, needed to become familiar with such customs in order to understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world, so Mark explains them.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship. Mark returns often to this theme, categorizing his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. Mark presents and supports this call to discipleship by narrating the identity and teaching of Jesus. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

THE SETTING OF MARK

The events in the book of Mark take place almost entirely within Palestine, from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time Palestine was ruled by the Roman Empire. The book opens with Jesus' baptism by John during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip. It closes with Jesus' death and resurrection about three years later.



Sermon Notes

- 1) A _____ about a landowner and his tenants.
(Mark 12:1-8)
- 2) Jesus _____ the parable.
(Mark 12:9-12)