



**May 17, 2020**

## **F260 Bible Reading Plan**

### **Week 19 (5/11/20)**

Psalms 119:129-176, 139

Psalm 148-150

1 Kings 2

1 Kings 3, 6

1 Kings 8, 9:1-9

### **Week 20 (5/18/20)**

Proverbs 1-2

Proverbs 3-4

Proverbs 16-18

Proverbs 31

1 Kings 11-12

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **Luke 20:9-19**

<sup>9</sup> He went on to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. <sup>10</sup> At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup> He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup> He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

<sup>13</sup> "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.'

<sup>14</sup> "But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. 'This is the heir,' they said. 'Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' <sup>15</sup> So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup> He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others."

When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

“‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’<sup>[a]</sup>?”

<sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

<sup>19</sup> The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

## COMMENTARY

LUKE 20: 9-19

**20:9-12.** The vineyard was a symbol of Israel (Isa. 5:7), and its owner was God. The tenant farmers stood for the people of Israel, notably its religious leaders. The successive slaves who suffered mistreatment from the tenants stood for the Old Testament prophets who were sent from God but were rejected and even killed by Israel.

**20:13-19.** My beloved son stands for Jesus. The Jewish religious leaders did not kill Jesus to claim His inheritance, but rather to forcefully and finally reject Him as Messiah and heir to David’s throne. The destruction of the farmers (Israel) by the owner of the vineyard (God) looks ahead to Gentiles being added to God’s plan for His new covenant people, the church. This is one of Luke’s major focuses in his next book, the Acts of the Apostles. The people in the temple area who were listening to Jesus (vv. 1,9) could not imagine God doing such a thing. In this quote from Psalm 118:22, Jesus is the stone and cornerstone (see Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:7). The builders are not identified, but they were undoubtedly Israel’s religious leaders (vv. 1,19).

Israel’s leaders were supposed to be builders of God’s kingdom, equipping God’s people to carry out His mission. He sent His Son to them, but they rejected Him. They killed Him. Now what would happen? God would take Christ, the one they rejected and killed, and establish a whole new building on Him. God’s vineyard would no longer be in the hands of authorities who were trained by rabbis or authorities based on racial or priestly heredity, or authorities based on leadership experience among the Jews. The new authority would be directly from God through His Son Jesus. On Jesus He would raise the walls of His church. The temple would be destroyed. Gentiles would become part of God’s people built on Christ.

Jesus used Psalm 118:22 to give Scriptural authority to His claim that He must be killed before He could exercise His total authority. The quotation expressed such authority

and power in figurative terms as the cornerstone. This is not a final capstone on the building but the foundation stone on which two walls intersect and from which the building gains its strength. Both Hebrew and Greek express this literally as “the head of the corner.” The figure of speech comes from architecture. It refers to the building block around which the entire building was constructed. The ability of the structure to withstand attack from natural or human forces depends on the integrity of the cornerstone. God’s plan for building up Israel as His eternal people on mission to seek and save the lost centered on establishing Jesus as the cornerstone on which the entire plan of salvation is built. Sadly Israel rejected Jesus. They wanted to build a kingdom of their own based on obedience to their interpretations of the law and on their authority over the worship and life of the nation. Despite such rejection, Jesus still became the cornerstone of God’s new temple, His new people, the church (Eph. 2:20).

## **MAIN POINT**

The parable of the tenants condemned the religious leaders of Jesus’ day and challenges our stewardship today.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**What were some of the rules for taking care of your home growing up? What specific responsibilities did you have?**

**When you are away, who do you have take care of your home, yard, pet, and so forth? Which of these do you worry about most while you’re gone?**

We are all given some area of trust or responsibility by God, even if it is just to show love to our neighbors. But our human tendency can be to take that trust for granted and forget that we must answer to God for how well we carry it out. In today’s parable, the religious leaders were confronted with their own failure to carry out the trust God had given them. In no uncertain terms, Jesus was asserting that the leaders of Israel (who turned against both Him and John the Baptist) had rejected God’s messengers and faced the prospect of divine judgment.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

- **Ask a volunteer to read Luke 20:9-16.**

**When has someone disappointed you by not doing what they promised? How does this experience help you understand what was happening in this parable?**

**What do the landowner, the tenants, the servants, and the son represent?**

**How do you think the leaders mentioned in Luke 20:1-2 felt about the first part of this parable?**

**How does this parable relate to the question of authority raised in verses 1-8?**

In the Old Testament era God sent prophet after prophet to His people, but the people rejected them, scorned them, and mistreated them. The prophetic message in Scripture was proclaimed by people who died at the hands of the forefathers of those listening to Jesus. As their ancestors had rejected the prophets, soon these leaders and the people who listened to them would reject the Messiah, God's Son. In doing so they rejected God's authority over them, which ultimately resulted in their experiencing God's judgment. God's act of sending His only Son was His last and most gracious attempt to save the people.

- **Ask a volunteer to read Luke 20:17-19.**

**The tendency of some groups, ministries, and churches as they age is to become more institutionalized, with leadership becoming more entrenched and unwilling to share their power. How is this reflected in the parable of the tenants, and do you see it happening in the church today? How does this parable call church leadership to accountability?**

**How does the quoted Scripture (Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14-15) relate to the parable?**

**How did the religious leaders feel about this parable? Why did they react the way they did?**

**Why did Jesus choose this time to tell such a parable?**

Jesus quoted from Isaiah 8:14-15 to demonstrate that those who are offended by the gospel and reject the cornerstone will experience judgment. For Isaiah, God was the stone over which both Israel and Judah would stumble, fall, and be broken. Jesus applied this text to Himself as the stone in the path of people who were rushing toward their self-determined goals. They would stumble over Him and be broken to pieces.

**What are the implications of this parable for us today?**

**How might we be guilty of rejecting Jesus from time to time?**

**Why do people today reject Jesus as God's Son? What responsibility do we have in helping them know Him?**

## **APPLICATION**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**How has God shown patience with you in the same way that He showed patience with the tenants and with Israel's religious leaders?**

**What have you been treating as your own that God might call you into account for as He did with the workers in the vineyard?**

**What specific "vineyards" has God entrusted to you? How is the harvest coming? How can this group help?**

## **PRAYER**

Close your time together with prayer. Thank the Lord for entrusting the gospel message to you. Ask the Lord to help you utilize your resources well, that you might boldly proclaim His Son's name and advance the kingdom of heaven.