

Summary

This sermon explores Mark 12:1-12, where Jesus tells a parable about tenant farmers who reject the landowner's servants and ultimately kill his son to steal the inheritance. The parable represents God (landowner), religious leaders (tenant farmers), prophets (servants), and Jesus (son). Jesus positions himself as the cornerstone that was rejected but became the foundation of salvation. The central message challenges listeners to answer the question 'What are we going to do about Jesus?' by recognizing Jesus as Lord rather than trying to control our own lives. The sermon emphasizes that we are called to be stewards, not owners, of what God has given us.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to approach this time with humility, recognizing that Your truth is meant not just for others, but for each of us personally. Give us ears to hear and hearts ready to receive whatever You want to show us about Jesus and our relationship with You. May we be open to the ways You want to challenge and transform us through this discussion. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you had to take care of something that belonged to someone else (house-sitting, pet-sitting, borrowing a car, etc.). How did that responsibility feel different from taking care of your own things?

Key Verses

1. Mark 12:1-12
2. Isaiah 5:1-2
3. Psalm 118:22-23
4. Acts 4:11
5. Ephesians 2:19-20

Questions

1. In the parable, the tenant farmers wanted to take ownership of something they didn't create. How do we sometimes fall into this same trap in our own lives?
2. Jesus quotes Psalm 118 about the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone. What does it mean that Jesus was 'rejected' and how does that relate to our salvation?
3. The sermon mentions that we can 'accept, deny, or declare' that Jesus is Lord, but it doesn't change the fact that He is. How does this truth impact how we live daily?
4. What's the difference between making Jesus your Savior (a one-time decision) and making Jesus your Lord (a daily practice)?

5. The landowner in the parable wanted to 'give' the vineyard to others, not rent or loan it. How does this reflect God's heart toward us regarding our inheritance in Christ?
6. The sermon suggests we should listen to the 'servants' God sends our way. Who might be some of these servants in your life right now?
7. What does it practically look like to live with 'open hands' as stewards rather than owners in areas like marriage, parenting, work, or finances?
8. The religious leaders rejected Jesus because accepting His lordship meant they couldn't be lords themselves. What areas of your life do you struggle to surrender control of to Jesus?

Life Application

Choose one specific area of your life (marriage, parenting, work, finances, etc.) and practice stewarding it rather than owning it this week. Each day, pray and ask Jesus how you can care for this area for His glory and the good of others, rather than trying to control it for your own purposes.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus positions Himself as Lord over all creation and salvation, whether we accept it or not
2. We are called to be stewards, not owners, of what God has given us
3. The inheritance God offers through Jesus is given by grace, not taken by force
4. Making Jesus Lord is a daily practice, not just a one-time decision
5. Jesus as the cornerstone means He is the foundation of both creation and our salvation

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of studying Your Word together. We declare again that You are Lord - not just in word, but in our hearts and lives. Help us to live this week with open hands, stewarding rather than grasping, trusting rather than controlling. Give us the courage to surrender the areas where we've been trying to be lord of our own lives. Thank You that Your lordship is not a burden but a blessing, and that You offer us an inheritance we could never earn. May we go from this place living as faithful stewards of Your grace. In Your precious name, Amen.