

**Mark 12:1-12**

Hard Hearts Stumble  
Over the Stone Laid in Zion



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**The Situation: Hard Hearts Get Parables!**

Mark 4:10-12 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. And He was saying to them, ~~to~~ you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but **those who are outside get everything in parables**, so that *while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.*+

Mark 12:1a And He began to speak to them **in parables**:



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**God's Vineyard Is Neglected**

Mark 12:1b-3 A man PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT, AND DUG A VAT UNDER THE WINE PRESS AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. At the harvest time he sent **a slave** to the vine-growers, in order to receive some of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers. They took him, and beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

Jeremiah 7:25  $\bar{o}$  I have sent you all My **servants the prophets**  $\bar{o}$



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**God's Prophets Are Mistreated**

Mark 12:4-5 Again he sent them **another slave**, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. **And he sent another**, and that one they killed; and so with **many others**, beating some and killing others.

Matthew 23:29, 31 **Woe** to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets. So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who **murdered the prophets**.

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**God's Own Son Is Mistreated**

Mark 12:6-8 He had one more to send, **a beloved son**; he sent him last of all to them, saying, **They will respect my son.** But those vine-growers said to one another, **This is the heir; come, let us kill him**, and the inheritance will be ours! They took him, and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.

Mark 8:31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man **must** suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

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**God Will Destroy Israel's Wicked Leaders**

Mark 12:9-12 What will the owner of the vineyard do? **He will come and destroy the vine-growers**, and will give the vineyard to others. Have you not even read this Scripture: **THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER STONE; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES?** And they were seeking to seize Him, and yet **they feared the people**, for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And so they left Him and went away.

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**Applications**

1. We must learn to fear God rather than men.
2. We must learn from Israel's mistakes and trust in the authority of God's spokesmen alone.
3. Trust upon the Stone God has laid in Zion.

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**Fear God Not Man**

Mark 11:32 But shall we say, "From men?" **they were afraid of the people**, for everyone considered John to have been a real prophet.

Mark 12:12 And they were seeking to seize Him, and yet **they feared the people**!

Proverbs 19:23 The **fear of the LORD** leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, **fear God**, honor the king.

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**Trust in God's Spokesmen Alone**

► **The key issue is authority:**

Mark 11:28 By **what authority** are You doing these things?

Mark 12:4-5 God sends His prophets

Mark 12:6-8 God sends His Son

Mark 12:10 Israel's leaders reject the Stone

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**Trust in God's Spokesmen Alone**

► **Heaven Is For Real:**

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago— whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows— such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man— whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, **which a man is not permitted to speak.**

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**Trust in God's Spokesmen Alone**

Matthew 12:39 **An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign;** and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophetō

Luke 16:29-31 But Abraham said, %They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.+But he said, %No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!+But he said to him, %**they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets,** they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.+

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**Trust Upon the Stone Laid in Zion**

Psalms 118:22-24, 26 **The stone which the builders rejected** Has become the chief corner stone. This is the LORD doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD has madeō Blessed is **the one who comes** in the name of the LORDō

Daniel 2:34-35 You continued looking until **a stone was cut out without hands,** and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed themō **the stone** that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

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