

Discussion Guide

Week of June 9, 2013

Mark 11:27-12:12

Passage Overview:

In Mark 11-13, we see a series of confrontations between the religious leaders and Jesus. Each time the religious leaders try to condemn Jesus they are the ones who are judged. Though at first glance it looks like Jesus is on trial, by the end of chapter 13 it becomes apparent that Jesus is the Judge.

Understanding God's Word—Read Mark 11:27-12:12.

The parable of the tenants is told “against” the leaders of Israel (12:12) because they will not accept the authority of Jesus (11:27-33). According to this parable . . .

- What is the attitude of the religious leaders (and all of humanity) to God's Word?
- What is the climax of humanity's attitude toward God in the parable? And in history?
- What will God do to rebellious people?
- What will God do to his Son?

Living and Applying God's Word

- What are the Jewish religious leaders asking Jesus in 11:27-33? What is this group so concerned about?
 - How does Jesus respond? Why is his answer so effective?
 - What practical implications does this interchange have for us?
- How is Jesus making the claim that he is divine (and not just a man) in 12:1-12? Pay special attention to the wording of v6. Why is the divinity of Jesus *necessary* for our salvation?
- In v10, Jesus changes the metaphor he uses from a vineyard to a building. What is Jesus teaching us by this switch? Read **1 Peter 2:4-8** and let this passage guide how you respond.

Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

This parable has many practical implications for us today. Reflect on these two:

- We learn that *we* are God's garden or vineyard. This means that we belong to God and he expects growth and fruit in our lives. We are to invest the gifts he has given us to bear fruit for him. How can you bear fruit with your (1) money/possessions, (2) knowledge, and (3) experiences (good and bad)?
- We learn that apart from Christ there is a natural hatred/enmity of God in us. The human heart is not merely indifferent or ignorant of God—rather there is an active bias and hostility to God in us (Romans 8:7). Do you think of humanity and yourself (apart from Christ) this way? Why or why not?

Prayer: Pray for the unbelievers (friends, family, co-workers, neighbors) who you interact with regularly. Ask God for boldness to communicate the gospel to them. Pray also for Brent and Jade Collins as they serve as missionaries in Spain.

Announcements

- Serve families and kids in the Children's Ministry!!!—contact christy@insidecrosspointe.com
- Baptism Sunday (June 23)—contact robert@insidecrosspointe.com