

MARK 12:1-27

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. Identify the different characters that are listed in the parable.
2. According to the passage (Context), who is Jesus speaking to?
3. What is their response to the parable? What do they want to do when they hear it? What prevents them from following through on their plans?
4. Matthew and Luke both relate this parable: Matthew 21:33-46 and Luke 20:9-19. Compare the different accounts and note any interesting similarities/differences.
5. Who are the main characters in the two accounts in this section (13-17 & 18-27)?
6. What are the issues they attempt to trap Jesus with?
7. How does Jesus answer their questions?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Look up Isaiah 5:1-7. Is there any significance to the connection between these passages and if so, what is it? What does the vineyard represent?
2. Compare verses 10-11 with Psalm 118:23; Isaiah 8:14; 1 Peter 2:4, 7-8; 1 Corinthians 1:23; Galatians 5:11. Why do you think the Jewish leadership couldn't accept Christ?
3. Do you think the chief priests and scribes picked up on the fact that Jesus was speaking of himself as being the son of the vineyard owner and that he knew they were plotting to kill him? Why or why not?
4. Who are the main characters in the two accounts in this section (13-17 & 18-27)?
5. What are the issues they attempt to trap Jesus with?
6. How does Jesus answer their questions??

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. If Jesus told this parable today, who would be the vine growers who oversee the land? How do you fit into that group?
2. The story is basically one which has to do with stewardship over God's plan and message. Israel oversaw being the beacon and lighthouse of God in the world. They were to show the glory of God to others. Instead they failed and misrepresented God. How are you a steward of God's plan and message? Would God find you responsible and productive? How can you be a better steward of God's plan and message?
3. In your life/our church, would you say Jesus is truly the cornerstone?
4. Do you view yourself as part of a distinct doctrinal or political group within Christianity (Fundamentalist? Evangelical? Charismatic? Anti-charismatic? Reformed? Moral Majority? Pro-life? Republican? Democrat? Libertarian? Reconstructionist? Liberal? other?)? How does that affect the way you view/deal with other believers? How does that affect the way you view/deal with the world?
5. How does the doctrine of the resurrection give you hope? How do you feel about heaven? What is the relationship between heaven and earth?
6. What is the one question you would like to ask Jesus about life after death?
7. What are you more familiar with, the Scriptures or the power of God? Why??

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.