

Luke 20:9-18
The Consequences of Rejecting Jesus Christ

Introduction: Jesus tells a parable in the form of a historical allegory. It begins with Israel coming into existence as a nation in the Exodus and continues through the future. It is a bold and deliberate provocation. (Guinness, *Fool's Talk*, 182)

- 1) Jesus introduces His condemnation of the religious leaders—20:9 ⁹ *Then He began to tell the people this parable: "A certain man ...*
 - a) *planted a vineyard, and leased it to farmers, and went on a trip for a long time (i.e. 3-5 years).*
 - b) Let's explain this parable to set the stage
 - i) The vineyard is the place of blessing/promise in the kingdom.
 - ii) The farmers are the people of Israel, especially its leadership

- 2) Jesus details God the Father's gracious and persistent patience to withhold judgment of those who demonstrate a pattern of reject His purpose—20:10-12
 - a) The initial violent rejection—20:10 ¹⁰ *And in time he sent a bonds slave to the farmers so that they would give him from the fruit of the vineyard.*
 - i) *But having beaten him, the farmers sent him away empty-handed.*
 - b) A second violent rejection—20:11 ¹¹ *And he proceeded to send another bonds slave;*
 - i) *and having beaten him too, and dishonored him, they sent him away empty-handed.*
 - c) An intensified violent rejection—20:12 ¹² *And he proceeded to send a third (bonds slave);*
 - i) *and having wounded (our word "traumatized") this one also, they threw him out.*
 - d) This refers to God's gracious repeated attempts to deal with OT Israel and their repeated pattern of increasingly violent rejection of God's message through the prophets.

- 3) Jesus details God the Father's final attempt to deal with the farmers—20:13-15
 - a) The expectation of the owner—20:13 ¹³ *Then the lord of the vineyard said, 'What should I do? I will send my beloved son (cf. 3:22); perhaps when they see him they will show some respect.'*
 - b) The conflicting and illogical expectations of the farmers—20:14
 - i) ¹⁴ *But when the farmers saw him, they reasoned with one another, saying, 'This is the heir; Come, let us kill him*
 - (1) *Why? so that the inheritance may be ours.'*
 - ii) ¹⁵ *And having thrown him out of the vineyard, they killed him.*
 - c) This is a statement of what God the Father was currently doing through His Son. He could send no one of greater importance without going Himself.

- 4) Jesus details God the Father's righteous judgment—20:15b-16
 - a) The appropriate question—*What, therefore, will the lord of the vineyard do to them?*
 - b) The Father's display of righteous judgment—20:16
 - i) ¹⁶ *He will come* (from the distant country, cf. 20:9)
 - ii) *and destroy those farmers* (who have harmed His servants and killed His Son)
 - (1) Israel's opportunity to gain the vineyard is taken away.
 - iii) *and give* (not lease) *the vineyard to others.*" (because He has the right to do so)
 - (1) Jesus introduces the idea of the Father working among the Gentiles.
 - (2) This culminates all of Jesus' messages concerning the fact that Gentiles and outcasts would be added to the kingdom whereas many from Israel would not be allowed to enter. (BKC)
 - c) The people's self-centered response—*And when they* (the people) *heard this, they said, "May it never be!"*
 - i) They refused to consider that their nation was worthy of God's judgment.
 - ii) This shows that the people were just as guilty of rejecting God's purpose for them as was the leadership.
- 5) Jesus corrects the response of His audience by applying the parable—20:17-18
 - a) He appeals to authority of Scripture—20:17 ¹⁷ *But having looked at them, He said, "What then is this that is written, "The stone that the builders (evaluated and) rejected, this one has become the chief cornerstone?"* (cf. Ps. 118:22)
 - i) The Son's rejection was prophesied centuries before.
 - ii) The people may reject the Son/Stone, but the Father exalts Him!
 - b) He applies Scripture to their personal lives—20:18
 - i) First coming—¹⁸ *Everyone who falls on that stone will be shattered to pieces;*
 - ii) Second coming—*but on whomever it falls, it will grind him into dust.*"
 - iii) The Exalted Stone crushes people in either scenario.
 - (1) The Stone is clearly an image of the authority Messiah possesses to judge those who reject Him (cf. Is. 28:16; Dan. 2:44-45).
- 6) Even though Jesus told this parable to the regular people, the leaders understood He was referring specifically to them—20:19
- 7) Things for us to remember:
 - a) God is wisely deliberate and extremely patient to withhold righteous judgment and to express gracious opportunities for the farmers to do the right thing.
 - b) To reject the Son is clearly an absurdity in light of God's repeated demonstrations of patient grace.

Though people repeatedly reject His Son, this does not stop the Father from giving rightful honor to Him. (Bock)