



First Baptist Church of Cypress
MY HOPE IS BUILT ON CHRIST
MARK 12:1-12

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Happy Easter everyone! Wow. Can you believe it has been a whole month since the last time we met at the property of 9131 Watson St.? I can't help but think what it will be like when we finally get to gather publicly. But you know, God has always been more about people than property. He is more interested in the eternal than temporal. He is even more concerned for your heart than your happiness. Because, let's face it our happiness tends to be what we can do for ourselves.

Our community, country & world have been tested to reconsider our happiness, our hope, and even for some in the world, their human rights have been tested. After this is all over, we will still think about 6ft distances, and how we interact with people. In this moment, we still have joy in our hearts and peace on our minds because we are child of the living God. The resurrected King and Savior of our lives. I'm so pleased to be with you all and to sit in your living room, hang out with your family, or take a drive with you. Remember God is doing something amazing in our time now. This is history in the making that the gospel is invading people's hearts and entering back into the homes where it started. Jesus started the church in a home and now its back in the home! Wow! Some have asked 'Is God judging us?' And I would reword this question like what Loui Giglio asked 'Is God reaching the world?' He is reaching out to the world and clearly calling for a Spiritual Awakening.

Today, I want to share with you a story that Jesus gives us in Mark 12. What he is doing is revealing hypocritical character of the chief priests and elders but also revealing him as the Cornerstone. Builders typically rejected stones until they found one perfectly straight in lines could serve as the cornerstone. Listen to what **1 Peter 2:6** says,

"For it stands in Scripture:

'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

READ, Mark 12:1-12

“And he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. **2** When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. **3** And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. **4** Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. **5** And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. **6** He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ **7** But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ **8** And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. **9** What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. **10** Have you not read this Scripture: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; **11** this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?” **12** And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.”

Explaining the Parable:

Six main characters:

1. The LANDOWNER = GOD
2. The VINEYARD = PEOPLE of Israel
3. The TENANTS = Religious LEADERS
4. The SERVANTS = PROPHETS
5. The SON = JESUS CHRIST
6. The “OTHER” Tenants = GENTILES

A. God Gives a FOUNDATION of HOPE. (v 1-5)

- God gave a redemptive MESSAGE through Israel's PROPHETS.

“Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies.”

Nehemiah 9:26

- SIN is fulfilling a God-GIVEN desire in a God-FORBIDDEN way.

B. God Gives His SECURITY and STABILITY Through His SON. (v 6-12)

*“If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” **John 11:48***

- The world SEARCHES for God and SEEKS salvation by Works.
- The believer is FOUND by God and RECEIVES salvation by Grace.

*“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it.” **Matthew 21:43***

In verse 10, Jesus continued His teaching in the form of a parable, but here His kingdom is seen as a building instead of a vineyard. Builders typically rejected stones until they found one perfectly straight in lines could serve as the cornerstone, which was critical to the symmetry and stability of the building. Jesus, Himself is the stone the builders rejected and crucified. But the resurrected Christ is the cornerstone.

*“Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead - by him this man is standing.” **Acts 4:10-12***

Two Fundamental Questions

Q1: Do I know Christ as my Lord and Savior?

Q2: Have I rejected Him as the Jewish leaders did?

Are you willing to put your hope in Jesus? I want to lead you in a prayer to trust in Christ maybe for the first time to save you from your sin. Place your hope and foundation in Christ!