

Remnant Life Church  
March 22, 2015

**The Parable of the Tenants**  
Luke 20:9-19

Introduction timeline:

- Jesus has entered the city on Sunday
- He returned to the temple the following day and cleared the money-changers away for the second time (first in **Matt 21:12**)
- He spends that Tuesday teaching the people through parables and dealing with the Pharisees
- This is one of His final parables

**READ** passage

- After Jesus had cleared the temple the Pharisees questioned Jesus' authority (**20:2**)
  - Jesus did not answer them rather He asked them a question (**20:3**)
  - A question they could not answer (**20:7**)
    - Jesus was revealing their motives
    - It was not their concern for protecting the people
    - It was their anger at Jesus exposing their sin by allowing the temple to become a corrupt place
      - Atonement money for the temple
      - Sanctuary shekel (**Ex 30**)
- Jesus then teaches the people through the parable
- What is a parable?
  - A vivid, familiar picture story with a meaning
  - The vineyard was a very familiar aspect of the people's lives
    - It was familiar not only in life but also in teaching
    - It had been used many times as a representation of investment and return in the Kingdom (**Isa. 5:1-7; Ezek. 15:1-6; 19:10-14**)
  - Everything of this parable is a representation of something else
- The components of the story
  1. The planter of the vineyard or landowner
  2. The vineyard itself
  3. The tenants
  4. The servants
  5. The son of the landowner
  6. Others given the vineyard

- What/who do these represent?
  1. Landowner – God
  2. Vineyard – the Kingdom of God
  3. Tenants – the religious leaders
  4. Servants – the prophets
  5. Son – Jesus
  6. Others – the church of Jews and Gentiles
- What is the full meaning of the story?
  - God created and entrusted His Kingdom/people to the Israelites
    - The 5 primary covenants of God with His people (Adamic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, and New) were all investments that God made in His creation
  - They strayed from God's law and worshipped other Gods turning their backs on the one true God
  - God sent the OT prophets to bring correction and even encouragement
  - Most of the time the nation of Israel did not receive them or listen to the message sent by God
  - Finally, God sent Jesus – His Son
  - But the religious leaders and the people turned on Jesus and had Him killed
  - God would take the Kingdom from them (70 AD – the Romans invaded and destroyed the city and temple) and put new tenants in their stead – (the church of the NT of those who would believe)
- What do we learn from this today?
  1. We have a great responsibility for what God has given us to care for today – **(READ Matt 25:14-30)**
    - a. What are you called to be a steward of?
      - i. Your relationship with Jesus
      - ii. Your relationship with your spouse
      - iii. The relationship to your family
      - iv. Your relationship with your friends
      - v. The provisions that God has blessed you with
  2. We will be called on to give an account of what we have been entrusted with
    - a. God knew the hearts of the Pharisees and they knew He knew (20:19)
    - b. God knows our hearts today
  3. God can as easily remove what He has given as He provides it
  4. Are you being faithful with who and what He has called you to be?