

The Journey to Eternity
Week 7 | Feb. 23, 2014

Jesus the Whistleblower
Mark 12:1-12; 10:32-34



The tension between Jesus and the religious leaders has been simmering throughout Mark's gospel. So far, all attempts to trap Him have failed. And now, Jesus and the disciples arrive in Jerusalem where He has predicted His death and His resurrection will take place.

Mark 10:32-34

³² *They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.* ³³ *"We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles,* ³⁴ *who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."*

Mark 11:27

They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. (NIV)

Read Mark 12:1-12 – the parable of the tenants.

From the weekend message:

[Q] Who is Jesus blowing the whistle on, and why? What are they doing that Jesus doesn't like? What do they have to lose?

Jesus' hearers would know from Isaiah 5:1-7 that the vineyard in the story represents Israel. Who else is represented?

The owner: _____

The tenants: _____

The sent servants: _____

The loved son: _____

[Q] What do you learn from this parable about the persistence and patience of God?

[Q] What does Jesus tell the leaders will happen to them in Mark 12:9? What do you learn about the judgment of God?

[Q] From Mark 12:10-11: Who are the builders and who is the rejected stone in the quote from Psalm 118:22-23?

Amazingly, the religious leaders march out and behave exactly as Jesus' story predicts.

[Q] How does the religious leaders' attitude reveal the attitude of all humanity?

[Q] Why do people reject Jesus today?

When God's word searches out our motives and exposes our hearts, two reactions are always possible.

1. We may see ourselves as we really are, repent from our sin and turn to the Lord. We might think that would be the inevitable response to Jesus' own preaching.
2. But another kind of response is possible: we can harden our hearts against the one who exposes our need, and resolve to be rid of his influence.

Pastor Sinclair Ferguson

[Q] God looks for the fruit of His grace in our lives. What messengers does God send to you to remind you to live for Christ?

Read 2 Tim 3:14-17 and Romans 15:4. List what Scripture can do for you.

[Q] Which item in your list do you need most this week?

Apply right now:

- Ask God to give you a hunger for hearing from Him in His Word.

- Ask God to work in the hearts of the people in your life who are rejecting Jesus.

Pray
