

ARGUING WITH JESUS
WEEK 3: CRUSHED BY JESUS—LUKE 20.9-19

Luke 20.9-19: And he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰ When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³ Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' ¹⁴ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' ¹⁵ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" ¹⁷ But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? ¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." ¹⁹ The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.

Owner =

Vineyard =

Tenants =

Servants =

Son =

I. Owner and Tenants

Describe God in this parable?

Have you ever started a business? Who takes the risk and who gets the reward in a new business venture?

List the gifts, resources, abilities, and desires that you have. Which are you using for your profit and which for God's profit?

What does this say to an atheist or agnostic who says, "so what, maybe there is a God, maybe not; I will just run and control my own life."?

II. TENANTS AND MESSENGERS

Who are the messengers and what do they do to them? **(I Kings 19.1-5; II Chronicles 24.20-21, Jer. 25.4, 38.6-13; Zechariah 1.6; Mark 6.14-29; Acts 7.52) Hebrews 1.1-2:** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

What are the exact charges against the leaders and problems with them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Ezekiel 34.2-4: 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? ³ You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. ⁴ The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.

What messengers has God provided in your life? And how are you treating them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

III. TENANTS AND THE SON

When you see how the tenants treat the Son, what does it tell you about what “sin” actually is?

“The one time in the history of the world that God made Himself physically vulnerable He was immediately jumped upon, beaten, tortured, and killed.” (Tim Keller)

“They hated me without cause.” (Jesus, John 15.25)

What about all the intellectual objections to faith? Why in our “heart of hearts” do we want to be in control, to rid ourselves of God’s rule?

“I didn’t want the universe to have meaning. I didn’t want there to be a god because I wanted to sleep with whoever I wanted to sleep with.” (Aldous Huxley)

Jesus is talking to religious people here, in fact leaders of religious people? How can it be that they hate God and His rule? Doesn’t their very belief system show that Jesus doesn’t know what he’s talking about?

“If I were God and the world had treated me as it treated Him, I would kick the wretched thing to pieces!” (Martin Luther)

Jesus quotes Psalm 118, always understood as a Messianic psalm. What does it mean that the ‘rejected stone becomes the cornerstone?

How do you know you can actually trust Jesus to be the owner rather than you?

“If you reject Him, He answers you with tears; if you wound him, he bleeds out cleansing; if you kill Him, He dies to redeem; if you bury Him, he rises again to bring resurrection. Jesus is love made manifest.” (Charles Spurgeon)