

Study Guide for August 10th, 2003. Series: Parables of Jesus. Bad Tenants. Luke 20:9-19

Introduction. Have you ever heard a story about bad renters? Perhaps you or a friend owned a house or apartment that was rented to others. How would you react if your property had been trashed by tenants?

I. Getting Oriented.

- A. Where does Jesus speak this parable? When is it spoken?
- B. Match the following people in the parable to their metaphorical equivalent.
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| 1) The owner of the Vineyard | a) The leaders of the nation (Israel) |
| 2) The Vineyard | b) Jesus, the Messiah |
| 3) The tenant farmers | c) The Nation Israel |
| 4) The servants of the owner | d) The Gentiles |
| 5) The owner's beloved son | e) The Prophets |
| 6) The others who receive the vineyard | f) God |
- C. What is being called into question in the preceding passage (Luke 20:1-8)?
- D. What is the lasting benefit of controversy concerning the question and authority of Jesus?

II. Important Background. Jesus draws on key O.T. images for this parable.

- A. How is the image of Israel as a vineyard described in the following passages?
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| 1) Psalm 80:6-16: | 2) Isaiah 5:1-7: |
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- B. How is the quotation from Psalm 118:22 used to explain what will happen to Jesus?
- C. How is the image of a stone used in the following passages?
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| 1) Isaiah 8:14-15: | 2) Daniel 2:34-35, 44: |
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- D. Read Acts 7:51-56. How does this illustrate the parable? What challenge exists for us?

III. The Story:

- A. How would you describe the tenants in this parable? What might account for their behavior?
- B. How does the owner of the vineyard respond? What conclusions can you draw about God?
- C. Think about the parable from the perspective of the son (Jesus). What must he be anticipating?
- D. Consider the reaction of the teachers of the law and the chief priests. Evaluate their response?

IV. Enduring Lessons: Use the following passages to summarize what this parable teaches about. . .

- A. The Patience of God (see also II Pet. 3:8-10)
- B. The Responsibility of Man (see also John 3:16-21)
- C. The Centrality of Christ (see also Dan. 2:35)