**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 29 – Rightfully His**

**We’ve are walking with Jesus in Mark – The week before the cross.**

**Jesus several times said he would be arrested, beat, killed, and rise again. Why and how could it lead to that?**

**(SUNDAY) Jesus entered Jerusalem… goes to the temple and leaves.**

**This was a declaration Jesus as the Messiah!**

**(MONDAY) Jesus Curses the Fig Tree and Cleanses the Temple –**

**This was a declaration of judgment coming on Israel.**

**Not making friends... Priest plotted to kill him.**

**(TUESDAY) With a contract on his life was out - Jesus heads back…**

**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. 28 “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?”**

**TWO QUESTIONS HERE:**

1. **Who do you think you are?**

**How dare you flip our tables and chase people out and disrupt our way of doing things. How dare you! Who do you think you are?**

1. **What gives you the right to change things?**

**What authority do you think you have to tell us anything? Who made you boss of us? What makes you think you have authority?**

**Many people look at Jesus right in the face and ask the same questions: This is my money, my relationships, my sexuality, my personal life, my kids – who do you think you are…?**

**29 Jesus replied, “I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 30 John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!” 31 They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ 32 But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ …” (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) 33 So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”**

**This exposed their attitude. They were not looking for the truth, they were looking for an excuse.**

**\*\*\*They were not sincere seekers – they were simply debaters.**

**Ever known someone like that? They only wanted to be right.**

**Jesus then decided to explain who he was using a parable**

**Mark 12:1 Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.**

**Guess who the Vineyard is… Isaiah 5 – a favorite song about Israel.**

**Isaiah 5:1 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. 2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. 3 “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?**

**5 Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. 6 I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”**

**7 The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.**

**Jesus starts telling a parable using imagery from Isaiah – they knew exactly what he was saying. When Jesus started talking about the vineyard… they were like uh oh – this is us.**

**Mark 12:2 At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. 3 But they seized him, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. 4 Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. 5 He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.**

**6 “He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 7 “But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ 8 So they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.**

**They knew what Jesus was saying - You think you can control what is God’s. I am God’s son; you are going to kill me.**

**9 “What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; 11 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”**

**Jesus is saying I am the marvelous cornerstone right in front of your very eyes – and you the builders are rejecting it.**

**I am the beginning, the start, the true point – the direction and course of all things built to follow - the perfect foundation.**

**And I know what you’re thinking – you want to, and will, kill me… but be ready – you will be judged.**

**12 Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.**

**What they heard:**

**He curses the fig – pointing to judgement on Israel.**

**He cleanses the temple – pointing to judgment on Israel.**

**He talks about the vineyards destruction – pointing to Israel.**

**In Mark 13 - most scathing judgements on Israel yet. (Gal 6:7 – God will not be mocked! You will reap what you have sown.)**

**This is directed toward Israel – what can we learn from this?**

**A story that sums up God attitude towards people**

**1. The owner is a loving master – as he is called in Isaiah 5**

**HE is not unjust, unfair, unwarranted – HE is a loving master.**

**James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.**

**God is a kind generous loving creator. God loves you!!**

**2. The owner gave us everything to succeed**

**He plows rocky soil into fertile land – plants a thriving vineyard – builds a wall– and a tower for protection – and adds a winepress.**

**Isaiah 5:1 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. 2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.**

**God says, “I gave you every opportunity for success - I expect fruit!” What do you lack? Where is the fruit of your life?**

**God has giving you everything you need to succeed in Christ.**

**2 Peter 1:3 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. \*\* God is not holding back from you!!!**

**3. The owner is incredibly patient**

**The owner gave them incredible patience. The owner gave them persistent messengers – to warn them and gather fruit. (their life)**

**They did not own it – they did not buy it – build it – or bring it to reality. But they arrogantly treated what was given, as if it was theirs to do as they wished… Oh what a generous and patient owner.**

**He did not burn them to the ground of cast them out with the first messenger ignored… the owner kept sending others.**

**How many times have you sat in church and said that message was for me – but you get rid of it before you get to lunch? How patient has the owner been with you?**

**4. The owner will be coming in judgement - to those who deny Him what is rightfully His. (YOU)**

**We see this again and again in this story and the entire Bible. Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,**

**The tenants (US) in that parable foolishly thought – Mark 12:7 “But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’**

**Let’s kill God! Let’s kill the idea of God! Let’s kill the word of God!! I am my own boss! Who does God think that he is?? You can’t tell me what to do with my life… God smirking… I gave you your life… are you sure about that?**

**5. The owner gives one final opportunity - The owner sent his son (Jesus)**

**Jesus told them, I’ll tell you who I am… I’ll tell you what authority I have…**

**I am the son of the owner – I am the cornerstone – are you sure you want to reject me? If you do… judgement follows.**

**You have rejected prophet after prophet – now you have me… what will you do with me? Vineyard… those who have been everything to succeed… what will you do with me?**

**But like them, people still say - Jesus - How dare you flip my tables and chase people out! Who do you think you are? Jesus – Who gave you the authority to tell me I’m wrong? Who made you boss of me? Who give you the right to change things around here? \*\*\* Jesus says - I’ll tell you who I am – I am your last chance… I am your only hope.**

**Mk 12:6 “He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all…**

**\*\*\* THERE ARE NO OTHER OPTIONS.**

**Jesus asked them and still asks us – What will you do with this? Will you reject me like they rejected me?**

**The question we are left with today: Who or what is your cornerstone?**

**Jesus is the start – the true point – the direction and course all things built to follow. He is the perfect foundation.**

**“And Matthew 21:44 …whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder,”**