

041325

“Sending the Beloved Son”

Luke 20:9-19

Series: The Way of the Kingdom #6

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Background

We have been remembering the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, his so called Triumphal Entry. The journey of Jesus to Jerusalem began in the far north of the land. Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do the crowds say I am?” They summarized public opinion: John the Baptist, or Elijah, or one of the ancient prophets. “But what about *you*?” Jesus pressed; “Who do *you* say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah” (Luke 9:18-20). This confession by Peter is the major turning point in the middle of each of the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Jesus immediately stated the implication of his Messiahship: “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life” (Luke 9:22). Where must this happen? In Jerusalem. So to Jerusalem they must go.

On a mountain top where Jesus was transfigured in the presence of his three closest disciples, Peter, John, and James. A cloud covered them and a voice spoke from the cloud, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” (Mark 9:7).

The same voice had previously spoken at his baptism: “You are my Son, whom I love. With you I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11).

Sermon Text: *Luke 20:9-19*

9 He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. 10 At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. 12 He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’

14 But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ 15 So 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 kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!”

17 Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’?

18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

19 The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

Discussion Questions

Preparation

1. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
2. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
3. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

Sunday Questions:

Belovedness & Identity

1. The voice of the Father at Jesus's baptism and transfiguration affirms: "This is my beloved Son."
What voices shape your self-image today? How can we stay anchored in the voice of the Father?

The Vineyard & God's Longing

2. God sends prophet after prophet—then his Son.
How do you respond when God sends a message through people or circumstances?

Rejection & Redemption

3. Jesus, though rejected, becomes the cornerstone.
What does it look like to build your life on the "rejected but chosen" cornerstone?

What Shall We Do? (Luke 20:13, 15, 16; Acts 2:37)

4. The question repeats: "What shall I do?" — from the owner, the tenants, and finally the crowd in Acts.
How are you wrestling with that question in your life right now?

Fruitfulness in the True Vine

5. Jesus is the True Vine; we are his branches.
What helps you stay connected to the Vine when life feels dry?