

The Stone That the Builders Rejected

Luke 20:9-18 // Pastor Todd Dugard

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Open Up

Are there parts of Scripture that are uncomfortable for you to consider? How does this parable affect you emotionally?

Dig In: I must acknowledge that God made, owns, and rules over all (v. 9a) and has entrusted what he made to us (v. 9b) requiring submission to his Word and his will (v. 10–12) and to his beloved Son, Jesus Christ (v. 13) whom I must accept as my Lord and Saviour (v. 14–16a) in order to receive the inheritance of his kingdom (v. 16b) rather than the crushing judgment that awaits those who reject him (v. 16c–18).

- Consider what we can learn from the way the tenants laid false claim to the vineyard in this parable. What's the difference between being responsible for what we receive and usurping authority over it?
- The vineyard was meant to be a beautiful place of cooperation with its owner, yet the tenants made it a battle ground. Why does a rejection of God's messengers indicate a spiritual stand-off between people and God? Other than the violence depicted here, in what ways can rejection of God take form?
- What is the significance of the heir's appearance in this parable? Why do the tenants kill him?
- How does this passage help us understand that God doesn't respond well to the rejection of Jesus? Does your personal, daily, response to the Gospel to provide evidence that you're not rejecting his Christ's authority over your life?
- Have you considered that God's judgment against your sin could be close at hand? Are we safe from wrath if we accept Jesus as God but reject his authority in another area of our lives?

Break Out

Encourage an open, frank discussion about the obvious, ongoing, willful rejection of God's authority that may be demonstrated by Christian people in the group. It would be better to have confession than accusation but given the stakes, this may be the time to break into areas that have been too long avoided. The point of this discussion is not to condemn, but to identify with the tenants' grave mistake and make a change instead of being crushed as a consequence of rejecting Jesus as God in your life.

