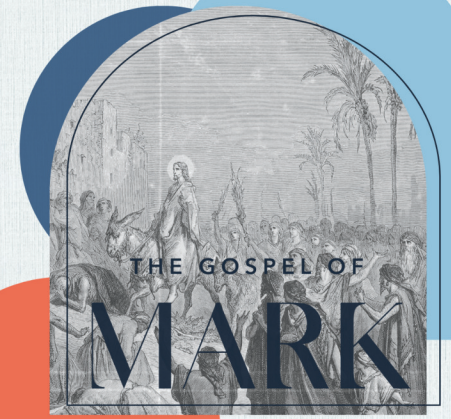


February 18, 2024

TURNING THE TABLES

Pastor Roger Poupart // Mark 11:27 - 12:12



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



27 They came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him, 28 and began saying to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?" 29 And Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question, and you answer Me, and then I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30 Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me." 31 They began reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Then why did you not believe him?' 32 But shall we say, 'From men?'"—they were afraid of the people, for everyone considered John to have been a real prophet. 33 Answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

12 And He began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard and put a wall around it, and dug a vat under the wine press and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. 2 At the harvest time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive some of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers. 3 They took him, and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 4 Again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. 5 And he sent another, and that one they killed; and so with many others, beating some and killing others. 6 He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 But those vine-growers said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!' 8 They took him, and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. 9 What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers, and will give the vineyard to others. 10 Have you not even read this Scripture:

'The stone which the builders rejected,

This became the chief corner stone;

11 This came about from the Lord,

And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

12 And they were seeking to seize Him, and yet they feared the people, for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And so they left Him and went away.



info@waysidechapel.org



[@waysidechapelsa](https://www.instagram.com/waysidechapelsa)



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GROW IN THE WORD

- Why do you think Jesus refers back to John the Baptist in his reply to the religious leaders' question? See Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:2-5, 7-11.

- What do the religious leaders' responses reveal about their attitudes and intentions?

02. Jesus told a parable to the chief priests, scribes, and elders about a landowner who planted a vineyard, rented it out to tenants, and sent servants to collect its fruit. The tenants rejected, abused, and killed the servants, even murdering the landowner's son when he came. The religious leaders understood that they were the tenants in the parable, and left Jesus to seize him at a later time (v. 1-12).

- How would you identify what each figure in the parable represents, and how does it relate to what's happening in Mark? See Jeremiah 2:21; Isaiah 5:1-7; Nehemiah 9:26.

GROW IN THE WORD

- What does Jesus' quotation of Psalm 118:22-23 in verses 10-11 reveal to you about his nature and his purpose? See also 1 Peter 2:6-8; Acts 4:11-12; John 1:6-12.

- In what ways can you learn from this encounter between Jesus and the religious leaders, and how can it challenge you to examine your attitude toward the authority of Christ?

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD

Africa | January - March 2024

We are learning about and praying for our partners in Africa this quarter and would love to have you join us! You can download our digital guide or pick up a copy in the Foyer on Sundays. This is a great way to be a part of reaching the world with the gospel!

FLOURISH: PRAYER+PRAISE+TESTIMONY

March 5 | 7-9 pm | Fellowship Hall

Ladies, you won't want to miss this evening focused on the theme "Redeemed" in worship songs, time of prayer, and hearing from several women in the ministry with their stories. We'll even have times of fellowship to connect with one another. Bring a friend and register online!

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share updates from any previous prayer requests.
- Ask the second question in the Reflect/Connect section of the passage guide and give each person a chance to respond. Feel free to pick your own icebreaker question.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Select 2-3 questions from each section that have cross-references. Pick questions that stand out to you, or that you believe would be most helpful for your group.
- Read any cross-references together and discuss.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Spend time reflecting on the last question of the passage guide. Feel free to spend some time in group prayer, inviting God to lead as you discuss applications together.
- Close the group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.