

### Why Would the Vineyard Owner Do That?



- It's Tues of HW, 3 days before dies. And with Jewish leaders piping mad at him, scrambling for opp to kill: J tells this parb: **vs. 9b-10a**. Perfly norm – lots VOs rent land to tenant farmers, collect rent at harvest time. But what I don't understand, what happens next: **vs. 10b**. And if weren't enough, **vs. 11-12**. Crazy! Why VO do that? Why keep sending servants to those thugs? Doesn't make sense! If me, my servant got beat up, I'd go in, evict those renters faster than you can say SMA. And certly wouldn't send in 2 more after 1<sup>st</sup> one gets roughed up. But that's what this guy does. So I can't help but wonder: why VO do that?
- Then my wonder turns to anger, when this: **vs. 13-15**. I just can't fathom this: sends in own son, after 3 servants already been beaten up. What he thinking?! Asking for trouble! And gets it! Thugs kill his boy! Crazy! So just can't understand: why VO do that?
- Understand what J teaching in this parb? It's pretty str8fwd to interpret: VO – God Father; VY – God's people/church which he plants/loves; servants VO sends – OT prophs God to his people; and VO's son – God's Son, J... which makes wicked tenant farmers who beat up servants & kill son none other than rel leaders Israel (like Phar, Sad, Snhdrn). Whoa – talk re throwing gas on fire. J saying: "You Jewish leaders, who are supposed to be taking care God's VY – not only have you rejected prophets of past, but now about to kill God's Son!" That's why **vs. 19a**? And these are the thugs God sent J to deal with. So again I ask: why VO do that?
- Now I suppose should also ask: why tenants do that? Why tenants (Jewish leaders) kill VO's son J in 1<sup>st</sup> place? Well, in parb, they say **vs. 14b**. But that's foolishness! You don't kill someone, get their inheritance; doesn't work that way. But thing re sin: it's foolish. Sin is always foolishness. Was foolish: for OT Israel reject prophs; for tenants kill VO's son; for Snhdrn kill J. And even though this parb was dir primarily vs Jewish leaders J's day, today we do well to recog foolishness of our sins, as well. Know: we convince ourselves that sin makes sense, that things will be better for us when we follow our way instead God's way. But sin is always foolishness; and I bet you've learned that truth hard way. I'd like you think right now, please, re sin you've committed in past that now, looking back on it, can see: utter foolishness. Can you think of 1? Many? Did any good come from that sin? Oh yes, I'm sure God worked good from that evil. But the sin itself was still foolishness! And that's something we all have learn, whether grade school children, HS/Col students, young adults, older Xians. God's coms are always meant for our good. But when we go own way instead following God's way, that's rejecting J, which is just as foolish as tenants killing VO's son. So for as appealing as sin seem at first, we all have learn: sin always foolishness.
- Now, thing re this parb: at first, VO almost seems foolish himself. Had to have known thugs would reject his son; but sends him into that VY anyway. So again, I have to ask: why VO do that? And I think J helps us understand why when says **vs. 17bc**. Quoting Ps 118; shifting imagery. Now J no longer VO's son but a stone.
- When in col, worked for stone masonry company; we built beautiful stone houses in wealthy suburbs of Det. One day at jobsite, flatbed trailer pulled up loaded with stone; foreman: over ½ mil \$ CT granite – just material alone! My job, find best stones, carry up scaffolding, so masons keep building house. But I remem: in days before trailer arrived, kinda slim pickings in yard; having hard time finding decent stones to send up to masons; found myself tossing bunch junk rocks into big rock pile.

- I always think re that jobsite when hear this passage from Ps 118, vs. 17c. Almost like God walked over to my junk pile, pulled out one my rejects, said, “This stone is best stone in yard; this will be my cornerstone.” Cornerstone was most imp stone in building; was first stone placed in building; set lines for rest of building; and all other stones were positioned on wall in relation to cornerstone.
- Well, J is cornerstone of God’s church: first one risen from dead, sets direction for Xianity, and all other Xians are built into God’s church on J the cornerstone. When Jewish leaders rejected J & threw him away & nailed him to cross, God Father said, “That’s my cornerstone!” And raised J to life & built his church & built every Xian’s hope of forgiveness and eternal life on J. That’s why we sing, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;” and “Christ is our cornerstone; on him alone we build.” That’s why Peter says: **“As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house” (1 Pt 2:4-5)**. So then, the Xian church is like big stone building; and as Xians, you are the stones that make up walls built on Christ the cornerstone. When unbelievers reject J, then vs. 18. But God has made his rejected Son the cornerstone of his church.
- So now put these two images together: stone & son, rejected & killed. God sent J to be crucified. But: why VO do that? Here’s why: bec God must really love this VY! Must really love this building! Must really love you, bec you are VY; building! God sent his own Son to be killed by wicked tenants, rejected by foolish builders, so that God could vindicate him in the res! You see: it’s only through the res of J that VY is given to good tenants, and that rejected stone becomes cornerstone. This is what res of J does: makes J our Lord/Savior; brings us forgiveness of sins, etern life in heaven; safeguards VY, protects building. And you are: VY; building; church of God. And God loves you so much that he does whatever it takes to save you from wicked tenants and foolish builders – even if that means the death of his own Son! Some may call that foolishness. But **“the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength” (1 Cor 1:25)**. So why would VO do this? Bec God must really love this VY. Must really love this building. Must really want to see this vineyard thrive, and you thrive in it. Must really want to see his building built strong/tall, and you built into it. Must really love this VY, this building; must really love you.

### Luke 20:9-19

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup> He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

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

<sup>14</sup> “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.’ <sup>15</sup> So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup> He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!”

<sup>17</sup> 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’? <sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

<sup>19</sup> 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.