

“Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’ ” Mark 12:10-11 NLT

## lectio // Mark 12:1-12

The beauty of telling stories! “Then Jesus began teaching them with stories: “A man planted a vineyard.” Stories are fascinating because they are simple enough to understand, yet can be layered with specific, targeted messages that are heard as “deep” and mysterious to certain listeners. C.S. Lewis wrote the Chronicles of Narnia, not as a children’s series, but as an allegory for adults - simple, yet profound. Here in Mark, Jesus tells a story that is clearly about right and wrong, and the eventual consequences of injustice. And yet, the religious leaders “decoded” the story and knew it was about them! Of course it was really about God and his own son, Jesus, but they figured out who were the “bad” guys in the story. Hard truth: WE are the bad guys in this story. I love Jesus little dig, “didn’t you read this stuff?” Like, you’re so smart, you missed the point even though it was written centuries before you were born. Truth: we ALL miss history’s point! God is still the landowner, we are still the tenant farmers and we systematically, systemically beat or kill the ambassadors the owner sends to collect his share of the crop! And, everyday we have opportunity to see that the Jesus, is still THE cornerstone, the critical, foundational piece of life that MUST be laid FIRST (not later, not last) and we can end up daily REJECTING him. We see the religious leaders getting the point of the story, but we fail to see it in our own lives. By the way, the other folks hearing this story were probably cheering when Jesus said, “the owner will come and kill those farmers.” They knew folks who were running the farms that behaved just like that. Some of them probably worked for the families that ran farms like that. And they hated the injustice as well!

## oratio

Dad,

As the tenant farmer, working my life that belongs to you, I want to not only give you your “share,” I want to be a co-owner, a son, an heir to the “property” (my life) so I can run it like a family business not just a servant or a tenant. If I lose my life in you... I gain everything!

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root