

Mark 12

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 8:00 AM

OUR FINAL HOPE

He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. (**Mark 12:6-8**)

Because Jesus spoke to a Jewish audience, they were aware that the vineyard was used in the Old Testament as a picture of Israel (**Isaiah 5:1-7**). Therefore, the vinedressers represented the rulers of Israel and the vineyard represented the people of God as a whole. The vinedressers didn't buy the vineyard, and they did not build it. A generous owner allowed them to work in his vineyard, yet they turned against the owner and one day had to answer for it. The owner was very patient. He sent messenger after messenger, even though they were all abused and mistreated. The vinedressers were very foolish. They apparently thought that if they killed the owner's son, the owner would then just give up and let them have the vineyard. (**Guzik**)

This parable tells us that Jesus knew He was the Son — the Son of God — and that He knew that He would soon be killed. The Son was the final messenger. There would be no other. Either they would accept the message of the Son or face certain judgment. "If you do not hear the well-beloved Son of God, you have refused your last hope. He is God's ultimatum. Nothing remains when Christ is refused. No one else can be sent; heaven itself contains no further messenger. If Christ be rejected, hope is rejected." (**Spurgeon**)

The Jewish religious establishment resented Jesus because He exposed their pride, hypocrisy, and self-righteousness. And as the parable describes them, they want to kill Him to keep their unearned power.

Lord, help us to truly love you. One that trusts you with all of our heart, soul and mind, meditating on your glory, divine power and fellowship with You.