

## Are You a Rejector or Receiver? Luke 20:9-19

ETS: Jesus exposed the actions of those who reject God's plan of salvation

ESS: Jesus describes what happens to those who reject Him

OSS: I want people who are rejecting Christ to receive Him

PQ: Are you are a rejector or a receiver of Jesus?

UW: Rejection

### ME

Suppose a guy notices a girl and he says "That's the girl for me"

- He goes and asks her out on a date and **she says** "no"

At this point, he must decide if he thinks it is worth it to try again

- Why? Rejection hurts.
  - It hurts to be told "no"

Suppose he really, really wants to date her.

- What will he do?

- He will muster up the courage to ask her again.

What if she says “No” again

- At this point, he must decide if he thinks it is worth it to try again
  - But it is going to be more difficult now because he has been rejected twice.

What do you think he’ll do if he asks a third time and she says “no”?

- Do you think he will ask a **fourth** time?

Is there a point when you’ve been told “**No**” that you stop asking?

- For some people, they stop after the 1<sup>st</sup> rejection
- Others will try and 2<sup>nd</sup> time
- Fewer, if any, will attempt after a 3<sup>rd</sup> time

Does there come a point when God stops giving a person or a nation the opportunity to respond to Him?

## **GOD**

Turn to **Luke 20**

Context:

- Jesus is in the **Temple at Jerusalem** probably in the Court of the Gentiles
- This is the **last week** of Jesus' life before His **sacrifice** on the cross.

Here is the scene:

- Jesus has just STUMPED the religious leader question with a question (Vs. 1-8)
- The *frustrated* religious leaders are still standing there along with the people when Jesus starts telling a story....

**Luke 20:9-19** Now he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, leased it to tenant farmers, and went away for a long time. 10 At harvest time he sent a servant to the farmers so that they might give him some fruit from the vineyard. But the farmers beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 He sent yet another servant, but they beat that one too, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And he sent yet a third, but they wounded this one too and threw him out.

13 "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What should I do? I will send my beloved son. Perhaps they will respect him.'

14 “But when the tenant farmers saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, ‘This is the heir. Let’s kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.’ 15 So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?  
16 He will come and kill those farmers and give the vineyard to others.”

But when they heard this they said, “That must never happen!”

17 But he looked at them and said, “Then what is the meaning of this Scripture:

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone?

18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but on whomever it falls, it will shatter him.”

19 Then the scribes and the chief priests looked for a way to get their hands on him that very hour, because they knew he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.

Let's break this story down:

- Vineyard
- Servants of the owner
- Son of the Owner
- The Owner
- Tenant Farmers

WHO is standing around Jesus? “chief priests and the scribes, with the elders” and the people

WHERE are they standing? In the **Temple**

WHAT is the Temple? It is the **center of Jewish training** and activity

**Luke 20:9** Now he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, leased it to tenant farmers, and went away for a long time.

In the temple, you would have had the **Old Testament scrolls** and one of those would have been of the **Book of Isaiah**.

- In the Book of Isaiah, **Israel** is referred to as “**God's vineyard**” (Is. 3:14, 5:3, 5:5)
- **Jeremiah**, another book in the temple, also speaks of Israel as being God's vineyard (Jer. 12:10)

The religious leader knew that God called the Jewish people **“His vineyard.”**

- So, when Jesus makes the **Vineyard** the setting for His story, it is clear to them that He is talking about the Jews.

IF the **“Vineyard”** is the Jews, then WHO is the **Owner**?  
God!

- God is the **“man planted a vineyard”**

How did God plant His **“vineyard”** of Jewish people?

- He took a **descendant of Noah’s son Shem** from the land to the EAST of the future land of Israel and chose a man named **Abraham**.
  - God designated **Abraham** as the **FATHER** of the **Jewish** people
    - God is the **OWNER** of the **Vineyard** because He **PLANTED** the Vineyard.

**Who** are the **Tenant Farmers**?

- We can answer that question by answering the question: HOW are **Tenant Farmers** described in **Jesus’ parable**?

Tenant Famers: **“Lease the vineyard”** (v. 1)

Do you know what it means to “Lease” something?

- Leasing is usually a **long-term arrangement**: Several years.

When you “Lease” something, does that make you the **OWNER**? NO!

- Several years ago, Laura and I “Leased” a car.
  - Did we “OWN” the Car?
    - No, we had to **make payments each month** to the **dealership** because **THEY OWNED** the car.

If we got into an accident with our “Leased” car, who would pay for the **repairs**? We would!

Per the “Lease” agreement, we could **PURCHASE** the car after **three years** at a **reduced rate**.

- Fortunately, when the “Lease” was up, God had provided another vehicle for us and we didn’t need to keep the car.
  - However, when we turned it in, the **dealership examined** the car **carefully** because if there was any “**Excessive**” **damage or mileage**, *we had to pay for it.*

ADVICE: If you can avoid “**Leasing**” a car, I would.

- Remember, the **dealership** is in **business** to **make** money, and while you can get into a “NEW” for **lower monthly payments** than if you bought it, you will get charged extra if you drive it too many miles or cause damage to it.
  - Also, remember your **license plate** will be **more expensive** and your **insurance will be high** because it is a new car.
    - If possible, save your money by riding **public transportation** or **carpooling**, until you have enough to **purchase a good used** car.
      - The **insurance** will be **cheaper**, the **license plates** will be **cheaper** and you will NOT be responsible to a DEALERSHIP for the number of miles you drive or if you get a scratch or dent on the vehicle.

Remember, when you “**lease**” something, **that does not make you the OWNER!**

- You are still RESPONSIBLE to the owner
  - Responsible for how you **treat** the property
  - Responsible for the **actions** that **occur** on the **property**

The **Tenant Farmers** are RESPONSIBLE to the Owner for ...



- How they **treat** the **property** (i.e., the **vineyard** or the people of God)
- The **actions** they take on the property (i.e, *with the people of God*)

Let's scan the parable to see the **ACTIONS** of the Tenant Farmers

**Luke 20:10** At harvest time he (the owner) sent a servant to the farmers so that they might give him some fruit from the vineyard. But the farmers beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

WHY is the **owner** sending "**Servants**" to the "**Vineyard**"?  
To get "**Fruit**"

Since the "**Vineyard**" is Israel, **what kind** of "**Fruit**" does the Owner want to get?

Remember, God made **Abraham** the **Father** of the Jewish people.

- Many years later, Abraham's **grandson (Jacob)** and his children moved to **Egypt** to escape the famine.
  - Over the **next 400 years**, the Jews grew from a **clan** of about **70 to several hundred thousand or a million**.

- God called out **MOSES** to lead the Jews out of Egypt and they were “**Birthed**” as a NATION.

In the **book of Deuteronomy**, *before Moses died* and right before **Joshua** led the Jews to cross the Jordan River to possess the land God gave them (known as Palestine today), Moses said in **Deuteronomy 4:5-7** “**Look, I have taught you statutes and ordinances as the Lord my God has commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to possess. 6 Carefully follow them, for this will show your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the peoples. When they hear about all these statutes, they will say, ‘This great nation is indeed a wise and understanding people.’**”

Unfortunately, the Jews **FAILED** to produce fruit – They failed to be “**Light to the Nations**”

Remember, I told you **WE** are in a **SPIRITUAL WAR** and **Satan** and his forces are doing everything they can to **DERAIL** God’s plan.

- From the **Time of Moses to Jesus**, Satan had **successfully kept Israel** from being a **Light to the Nations**.
  - How did he do it?

- By **enticing** the **Jews** to **follow** after **false** gods
- Be **enticing** the **Jews** to **intermarry** with pagans and adopt their practices
- By raising **false teachers** and **prophets** who misled Israel.

**RESULT:** No fruit! Israel failed to be “**Light to the nations**”

**PROBLEM:** The **LONGER** they remained in rebellion, the **worse** they became towards God’s Servants!

**Luke 20:11-12** He sent yet **another servant**, but they beat that one too, *treated him shamefully*, and sent him away empty-handed.” 12 And he sent yet a third, *but they wounded this one too* and threw him out.

- **Servant #1:** is “beaten” and “sent away empty handed”
- **Servant #2:** is “beaten” and “Treated shamefully” and “sent away empty handed”
- **Servant #3:** is “beaten or wounded” and not “Sent away” but “**Thrown out**” of the Vineyard

**WHO** were these **servants**?

- The “**Servants**” were the **prophets God** sent to Israel before Jesus’ arrival.

One of the books that calls **Israel God's Vineyard** is **Jeremiah**, and it may be **Jeremiah** that Jesus has in **His mind's eye** when He tells this parable!

- **Jeremiah** was a **prophet** in the southern kingdom (Judah) during the **last forty years of its existence** (627-586 B.C.).
- 600 years before Jeremiah stood outside the Temple and warned the people of impending judgment if they did not return to God.
  - If you read the account, you will see that **the priests and prophets of the temple** led **public opposition** against Jeremiah and threatened to end his life.
  - Later, **Jehoiakim** the king, took **Jeremiah's scroll** (The Book of Jeremiah) and **burned it** one page at a time and ignored Jeremiah's warnings (He had to rewrite it).
  - Jeremiah was later placed in **stocks**
  - Jeremiah was **arrested, beaten, and imprisoned**
  - Jeremiah was later **thrown into a cistern**-fortunately, an **Ethiopian eunuch** pulled Jeremiah out before he died

The other book that calls **Israel God's Vineyard** is **Isaiah**

- According to Jewish tradition, **Isaiah hid** in a hollow **cedar tree** to escape from the evil King Manasseh, but **Manasseh** found him and had the tree cut into two killing Isaiah inside.
  - Some believe that is what is being referred to in **Hebrews 11**.

WHERE is Jesus telling this story? In the temple-most likely in the **Court of the Gentiles**

- About **500 years before**, there was a prophet named **Zechariah**.

Remember, I told you WE are in a **SPIRITUAL WAR** and **Satan** and his forces are doing everything they can to **DERAIL** God's plan.

About **900 years before Jesus** Israel split into two kingdoms: "**Israel**" in the North and **Judah** in the South (MAP)

- **Remember:** The Coming Messiah (Jesus) was to be a **descendent of King David**
  - David's descendants ruled in the Southern kingdom, known as Judah

The **fifth king** to rule in the southern kingdom was Jehoram.

- Many times, a king will **marry** the daughter of another king to form an **alliance**
  - So, **King Jehoram married Athaliah**, (who was the daughter of King Ahab and Queen **Jezebel** from the Northern Kingdom).

If you don't know who **Queen Jezebel** was, she was the wicked wife of **King Ahab**.

- She **worshipped Baal**
- She had the **prophets of God** killed
- She tried to **kill Elijah**, another prophet of God
- She had a man **named Naboth** killed because he **wouldn't sell his vineyard** to the king.

This woman was so **wicked** that her name has become **synonymous** with **wicked** women in the Bible. (See Revelation 2)

**King Jehoram not only married Jezebel's daughter, but he killed** his brothers so there would be **no other successors** in the line of David except his sons.

- King Jehoram and Athaliah (Jezebel's daughter) had a son named **Ahaziah**
  - The prophet **Elijah** wrote a letter to Jehoram and told him that God was going to afflict him with an **intestinal disease** that would **"cause your**

intestines to come out day after day” (2 Chro. 21:15)

- Shortly thereafter, God caused the **Philistines** and **Arabs** to attack Jehoram due to his wickedness and they killed all his children except the youngest son, Jehoahaz.
  - Jehoram died shortly afterward from his intestinal disease and according to **2 Chronicles 21:20** he “**He died to no one’s regret...**”

Jehoram and Athaliah (Jezebel’s daughter) had a **son** named **Ahaziah**.

- After **Jehoram died**, 22-year-old **Ahaziah** became the king and his **mother, Athaliah** was his **advisor**.
  - According to **2 Chronicles 22:3** “**He walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother gave him evil advice.**”
- **Ahaziah** was later **killed by Jehu** when he went to visit King **Joram**
  - When Ahaziah’s mother, **Queen Athaliah** (daughter of Queen Jezebel), learned that her son was dead, “**she proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs of the house of Judah.**”

**Remember:** The Coming Messiah (Jesus) was to be a **descendent of King David** so if Satan could work through **Jezebel's daughter** to kill all of **David's descendants**, he thought he could STOP the Messiah from coming to this earth!

- However, **Satan cannot stop God's plan!!**

**Jehoshabeath**, who was the daughter of King Jehoram and Ahaziah's sister, **rescued** Ahaziah's son, **Joash** from the Queen Athaliah and had him **hidden** in the Temple for **six years**.

- Jehoshabeath was also married to the priest **Jehoiada**.
  - **Jehoiada** made sure Joash was **protected** from the evil **Queen** who had taken over the throne.
- After **7 years of hiding**, Jehoiada **revealed Joash** to the Levites and temple leaders who rallied around him and proclaimed Joash as the True King!

**Joash** overthrew and killed the evil Queen Athalia.

- The priest Jehoiada advised young Joash and while he was alive Joash **“did right in the Lord's eyes”** (**2 Chro. 24:2**)
  - However, when the priest Jehoiada died at age 130, Joash stopped following the Lord.



**2 Chro. 24:17-22:** “However, after Jehoiada died, the *rulers of Judah* (Tennant Farmers) came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them, 18 and they abandoned the temple of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and served the Asherah poles and the idols. So there was wrath against Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. 19 *Nevertheless, he sent them prophets to bring them back to the Lord;* they admonished them, but the people would not listen. (more “servants” of the Vineyard owner) The Spirit of God enveloped Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood above the people and said to them, “This is what God says, ‘Why are you transgressing the Lord’s commands so that you do not prosper? Because you have abandoned the Lord, he has abandoned you.’” 21 *But they conspired against him and stoned him at the king’s command in the courtyard of the Lord’s temple.* 22 King Joash didn’t remember the kindness that Zechariah’s father Jehoiada had extended to him, but killed his son. While he was dying, he said, “May the Lord see and demand an account.”

This happened in the **very location** where **Jesus** was **telling** this **parable!**

- I wouldn’t doubt that if you took a “**Tour of the Temple**” the guide might have stopped and said,

“This spot is where Zechariah the prophet was stoned to death.”

**Jesus** may also have had the **prophet Zechariah** in mind as one of the servants who were killed by the “Tenant farmers” of this parable.

WHO do you think the “TENANT FARMERS” are?

- They are people who are supposed to oversee the Vineyard!
  - Who would be the “Overseers” of God’s Vineyard?
    - The RELIGIOUS LEADERS: “Chief priests and the scribes”

Throughout Israel’s history, it was the RELIGIOUS LEADERS who often opposed the TRUE prophets of God!

- WHY would the very people who were supposed to take care of God’s “vineyard,” reject God’s “servants”?
  - **Power:** We like to create power structures, and over the years, power structures developed and it was more about the INSTITUTION than God!
  - **Greed:** The religious leaders were well-taken care of by the INSTITUTION and God’s servants threatened their way of life.

- **Politics:** They were more interested in forming alliances than in following God because they trusted in alliances more than God.

**God's servants** keep calling His people to live by faith, to obey God's commands, and to love God NOT the things of this world (i.e., they were calling the people to a **RELATIONSHIP** with God).

- The religious leaders did not want to hear that message—they wanted control, power, and money that came with **RELIGION**.

**Luke 20:13** “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What should I do? I will send my *beloved* son. Perhaps they will respect him.’

- WHO do you think is the “**Owner's beloved Son**”?  
Jesus!

What will the **Tenant Farmers** (i.e., *religious leaders*) do about Jesus?

What Jesus says next is another indication that He is **God in the Flesh!**

- How? He tells them to their face what they are going to do BEFORE they do it.

**Luke 20:14-15a** “But when the tenant farmers saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, ‘This is the heir. Let’s kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.’ 15 So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.”

- What the **religious leaders** were about to do to Jesus was **DELIBERATE**
  - **They hatched a plan with Judas to betray Jesus**

WHY did they do this? To have the **Vineyard** to themselves!

- They didn’t want the MESSIAH—although they said they did!
- They didn’t want a Messiah who wouldn’t think like, act like and treat people like them!

WHAT is Jesus predicting they are going to do to Him?  
“kill him”

- Jesus **had been predicting** this would happen to Him for over a year and NOW the time is fast approaching!

Jesus then asks: **Luke 20:15b-16** “What then will the **owner of the vineyard do to them** (the Tenant famers i.e., religious leaders)? 16 He will come and kill those farmers and give the vineyard to others.”

- Remember in **vs. 9** that the owner had “**Been away for a long time**”
  - NOW, after they kill His Son, the owner is going to show back up

WHAT is the Owner going to do? “**kill those farmers and give the vineyard to others.**”

Here is a few things to remember....

**God Will Judge Those Who Reject His Son** (v. 16)

**Luke 20:16** “**He will come and kill those farmers and give the vineyard to others.**”

God is NOT a TYRANT, He is **long-suffering!**

Remember, God was **repeatedly rejected** (v. 10-13, 15)

- **Servant #1:** is “**beaten**” and “**sent away empty handed**”
- **Servant #2:** is “**beaten**” and “**Treated shamefully**” and “**sent away empty handed**”
- **Servant #3:** is “**beaten or wounded**” and not “**Sent away**” but “**Thrown out**” of the Vineyard.
  - 3x times the “**Owner**” (God) sends a “**servant**” and 3x they are **rejected**.

- **His Son:** “they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.”

Those who rejected KNEW did so WILLFULLY (they discussed it among themselves)

By this time, the religious leaders KNOW Jesus is talking about them—they are the “Tenant Farmers”

**Luke 20:16b-17** But when they heard this they said, “That must never happen!” 17 But he looked at them and said, “Then what is the meaning of this Scripture: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?”

- Jesus is quoting from **Ps. 118:22**

This is wild....

What is about to occur starting on Thursday night at sundown until Friday night on the week Jesus is in the Temple? The Passover!

- **Ps. 118** is a “**Hallel Psalm,**” or **Psalm of Praise**
  - It is read on the **Passover** at the **Seder Meal**
  - It was written when the Second Temple, *the one Jesus is standing in*, was dedicated.
- So, Jesus is **quoting** from the very Psalm the **RELIGIOUS LEADERS** will be reading to the people at

the **Passover** and He is using it to pronounce judgment on them!

Jesus asks a question “**Then what is the meaning of this Scripture: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?**” and they don’t know the answer!

- But, the answer would soon become clear!

The “**Builders**” are the **Religious leaders**  
The “**Stone**” is **Jesus**

You’ve got to think that on **Friday night** as these religious leaders read **Ps. 118**, the **words stung** because they had **just killed Jesus** a few hours earlier!

- They couldn’t ignore the fact that they were
  - The **Builders** who had REJECTED Jesus as the Stone.
  - The **Tenant Farmers** who KILLED the **Owner's** (God’s) Son
    - For those willing to accept what Jesus had said, had to admit that Jesus was right!
      - Jesus had correctly predicted the future.

However, some of them may have also been MOCKING Jesus!

- I can imagine some saying, “How is this Jesus going to become the “Cornerstone” when He’s dead!?”
- I can imagine some saying, “Yes, and the “Cornerstone” of what?”

**Luke 20:18** “Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but on whomever it falls, it will shatter him.”

- I can imagine some saying, “If Jesus is the Cornerstone, it doesn’t look like He managed to break anyone into pieces!”

**HOWEVER, 3 days later** the UNTHINKABLE Happened: **Jesus ROSE from the DEAD!**

- Jesus smashed their plan into pieces!

Remember, that one of the two Old Testament books that referred to Israel as God’s **Vineyard** was **Isaiah**, and Jesus refers to **Isaiah 8:14-15** which **predicted** that the **Jews** would **stumble over** Jesus (the Lord of Armies) as their Messiah!

- They would be OFFENDED by the notation that this **Carpenter** was the Son of God and the **Savior of the World.**



Also, hidden in **vs. 16** is another prophecy that goes beyond Jesus' death!

- **In A.D. 70** the **Romans** would march into Jerusalem and destroy the temple and the sacrificial system.
- As Jesus predicted, the “**owner**” would “**kill those farmers**” by bringing the Romans down upon them.

### **God Will Judge Those Who Reject His Son**

Not because He is a tyrant, but because those who reject Him have been...

- **Repeatedly warned**, yet refused to repent
  - Those who **rejected** KNEW did so WILLFULLY
  - Those who **rejected** REFUSED to REPENT (v. 17a)
  - Those who **rejected** have been WARNED (v. 17-18)
- Thought they could outsmart God, but end up being “**shattered by God**”

Unfortunately, the RELIGIOUS LEADERS did not take the WARNING

- **Luke 20:19** Then the scribes and the chief priests looked for a way to get their hands on him that very

hour, because they knew he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.

But there is another side to this parable

## **God Will Honor Those Who Receive His Son**

**50 Days later**, on the **Feast of Pentecost**, the Holy Spirit descended, the Apostles preached and 3,000 people became followers of Christ and the Church was born with Christ as the **“Cornerstone”!**

- The One whom the religious leaders **REJECTED** became the **Guiding Foundational Stone** for a **New Work** of God called **“The Church”**

**Luke 20:16** **“He will come and kill those farmers and give the vineyard to others.”**

- Jesus said the **“vineyard”** would be **“given to others”** by the Owner!
  - God took the **“Vineyard”** away from the Jewish Religious Leaders and gave it to His **Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, and Teachers** to tend!
    - No longer would **Jewish Religious leaders** tend God’s **vineyard**, but God would bring in the **Believing Gentiles** to tend His **“Vineyard”**

# YOU

Which one are you?

- Are you a REJECTER of God's Plan or a RECIEVER of God's Plan?

**PQ:** Will you REJECT or RECEIVE God's Son?