



Mark 12:1-12, Owners or tenants?

Read Mark chapter 12 verses 1 to 12 and pray for God's Spirit to be at work as you explore together these words of Jesus.

1. This parable pictures a wonderful vineyard. To get your imaginations into the picture painted here can you think of some of the most beautiful places you've been to? Have you been to a vineyard? What was the experience like?
2. For us to rightly understand this parable we need to see first it tells the story of God's people (the Israelites) up to Jesus' day. Who do the characters represent? What are the things Jesus wants Israel's leaders to grasp about God and themselves?
3. The parable tells not just the story of the Israelites, it tells our story too. How can we be like the tenant farmers?
4. 'God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love' (Exodus 34:6-7). The history of Israel shows that God is incredibly patient. In what ways does your story show God's patient and kindness? Do you think of God as patient towards you?
5. The parable shows us also God is just. The tenants do in the end face judgment - they are justly punishment for their actions. Jesus is clear throughout his life there is a coming day of judgement for all of us. How should this coming day shape our lives now?



**St Helen's
St Edmund's**

6. The Israelites sadly rejected Jesus (like a stone thrown out to be trashed). For many many others though he has become the cornerstone (capstone). What does it mean for Jesus to be our cornerstone? How might we live with him as our cornerstone;

- Individually?
- As a church family?

You may want to make time to listen to the song Cornerstone together or in the coming week and use the lyrics to guide your prayers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02ul>