

Are We Honoring Jesus as Lord – Part 10: Luke 20:9-20 ESV

# Father → Son → Representatives

## *Are You Aware of their Connections?*

Services: Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 8:00 or 10:45

Church Year: Fifth Sunday in Lent

**During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6**

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today's message has to do with **connections**. This is the setting:

- On Palm Sunday – Jesus received praise, *but Pharisees did not understand His connection to the Father.*
- On Holy Monday – Jesus cleansed the temple, *but religious leaders did not understand His connection to the Father.*
- On Holy Tuesday – Jesus told the parable of the wicked tenants to help people understand what had happened and what was soon to come:
  - The landowner – represents *God*.
  - The vineyard – represents *the nation of Israel*.
  - The tenants – represent *the Jewish religious leaders*.
  - The slaves – represent *the faithful OT prophets*.
  - The Son – represents *Jesus*.
  - The other tenants – represent *the Gentiles*.

1. **The Slaves were Beaten:** <sup>9</sup> **And [Jesus] began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants [farmers] and went into another country for a long while. <sup>10</sup> When the time**

came, he sent a servant [*literally, a slave*] to the tenants, so that 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> And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed.<sup>12</sup> And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out.” //

Think about the people of Israel (Jacob): The Lord greatly multiplied them; *then settled them in a land flowing with milk and honey*. They **should** have honored Him, *yet they didn't*. So, *in love*, He sent various prophets – *His official representatives* – to call them to repent—*to be sorry and receive forgiveness*, but they refused to listen and beat the prophets☹️.

2. **The Son was Killed:**<sup>13</sup> “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’<sup>14</sup> But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’<sup>15</sup> And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.” // Think about Jesus’ ministry: He had just been welcomed into Jerusalem and people were praising Him, *so the religious leaders could see their position of control slipping away*. John chapter 11 includes these words of the religious leaders, *right after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead*: “...this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.’ ...So from that day on they made plans to put him to death” (John 11:47-48, 53 ESV).

3. **The Father Reacted:** “What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup> He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” // That came to fulfillment in the decades that followed as *the Gentiles became the focus of the gospel and Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed (A.D. 70).*
4. **The Sad Outcome of the Unrepentant:** When they heard this *[regarding destruction and new tenants]*, they said, “Surely not!” <sup>17</sup> But [Jesus] looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone *[that is, Jesus]* that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone *[the most important of all]*’? <sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” // We all have a tendency to sin, *but none of us want the consequences!* Matthew Henry made this comment: “Awful will be the doom, both of those who reject the Son, and of those who profess to reverence Him, yet render not the fruits in due season. ...such a punishment was just, yet they could not bear to hear of it. It is the folly *[foolishness]* of sinners that they persevere in sinful ways, though they dread the destruction at the end of those ways.”<sup>1</sup>
5. **The Wicked Become More Wicked:** <sup>19</sup> The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. <sup>20</sup> So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something

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<sup>1</sup> <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/luke/20-18.htm>

**he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. // What a sad response!**

The Lord wanted them to see their wrong, *before they followed through with it*; then repent. The Lord wanted to ►forgive them, ►restore them, and ►eternally bless them! Instead, they were even more determined to follow their foolish, wicked course of action 😞.

**Conclusion:** So what were the major problems with the religious leaders? They viewed *their lives* as **more important** than *God's truth!* They also rejected the connection between the Father and His prophets, and the Father and His Son! Therefore, *in their wickedness*, they beat and killed!

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus identified some important connections; He said to His disciples: **“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him [that is, God the Father] **who sent me**”** (Luke 10:16 ESV).

- Many claim to hear the Father *but not Jesus*; that is impossible; *to reject the Son is to reject the Father!*
- Others claim to hear Jesus *but not His representatives*; that is impossible; *to reject His representatives is to reject the Son!*

**Let us pray:** Dear Father, dear Lord Jesus, help us to see the connections between *both of You* and *those who represent You*. Then grant us open ears and open hearts to understand Your Word, believe Your Word, turn from all wrong-doing, and rejoice in Your wonderful gift of forgiveness! Amen!