

Introduction:

What is the foundation of your life? This week we look at a parable told by Jesus where we learn that Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. You can find the sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²



Scripture:

Turn to Mark 12:1-2 in your Bible or [click here](#).

So What?

In this parable of judgment, Jesus tells about the owner of a vineyard. The owner planted the vineyard and leased the land to tenant farmers. He later sent servants at harvest time to receive the tribute, but the tenants mistreated them. They even killed the owner's son, thinking they could steal the land. Rather than let the tenants get away with the crime, the owner brought judgment on them. Not every detail in a parable has an exact meaning but the main characters in this parable, however, are easily identifiable: The owner is God and his vineyard is the nation of Israel. The tenants were the Jewish religious leaders, whom God placed in charge of tending the vineyard. The servants sent by the owner and mistreated by the tenants are the Old Testament prophets from Moses to John the Baptist. The beloved Son is Jesus, sent intentionally and willingly from God to collect the harvest. The consequences of the sin are judgment. A few days after this parable is told Jesus will transfer the leadership of his kingdom from the Jewish religious leaders to the apostles. They will become the founders of the church, with Jesus as the cornerstone. Jesus' statement also looks forward to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. This parable angers the leaders and they plot to kill Jesus. This is God's plan however, and he has sent Jesus to become "the cornerstone."³ (See also [Matt. 22:33-46](#); [Luke 20:9-19](#))

**“Is Jesus the
cornerstone of
your life?”**

What Now?

1. In verses 10-11 Jesus quotes from Psalm 118:22-23. Take a minute to read it in context: [Psalm 118:19–24](#). In this verse we learn two things about Jesus: 1) Jesus, whom the leaders have rejected, is the the cornerstone. This means that he is the foundation of salvation for those who believe in him, and he is the one on whom the church is built. See [1 Pet 2:4–8](#). But for those who reject him, as did the tenant farmers, this stone is one of judgment. See [Luke 20:18](#). 2) It was God's will to send Jesus. Jesus was not an unwilling victim, but rather the beloved Son of God, sent by the Father, and who willingly came to lay down his life for the world. See also [Mark 10:45](#); [Acts 2:22-23](#), [4:11–12](#).
2. This parable also helps us to see that God's plans do not fail. Not even the death of his prophets, the rejection by his people, or the death of his Son could stop him from reconciling man to himself. We know that in the end his Son did die (for the forgiveness of our sins) and that he was resurrected in victory three days later. This is yet another reason for us to believe that God's promises are trustworthy.

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2015/11/01/a-warning-against-rejection/>

² <http://firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>

³ This text has been adapted from Pastor Mark's sermon notes.