**“THE REJECTED STONE”**

 **Mark 12:1-12**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Idea of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What was the most impactful part of the Sermon for you?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

1. When have you ever been cheated out of something that was rightfully yours?
2. What is something that you refused or rejected when you were younger, that you now regret?

**Mark 12:1–12 (NLT)**

1Then Jesus began teaching them with stories: “A man planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country.

2At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop.

3But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed. 4The owner then sent another servant, but they insulted him and beat him over the head.

5The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed, 6until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly. The owner finally sent him, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’

7“But the tenant farmers said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’

8So they grabbed him and murdered him and threw his body out of the vineyard. 9“What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do?” Jesus asked. “I’ll tell you—he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others. 10Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.

11This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’” 12The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the crowd, so they left him and went away.

***EXPLORE***

1. What happened to the man’s vineyard while he was away on a journey? (12:1)
2. Why did the owner of the vineyard send so many servants to the tenants looking after the vineyard? (12:2–5)
3. Who was the last person the owner sent to his vineyard? (12:6)
4. How did the tenants want to cheat the son? (12:7)
5. How did the tenants treat the owner’s son? Why? (12:7–8)
6. What would be the response of the vineyard owner when he discovered how the tenants treated his son? (12:9)

***APPLY***

1. In what ways is it possible to mistreat the messengers or message God has sent us?
2. How does God want us to treat His message?
3. When have you ever been mistreated because of your faith in Christ?
4. How can you be a better steward of the spiritual responsibility God has given you?
5. What is one area of your life that you are holding back from the Lord for fear that He may ask too much of you?