

Exegetical Notes - Luke 20:9-19

“Sent From the Father”

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Luke 20:9-19

(In Luke 20:2, the leaders of Judaism demanded to know by what authority Jesus did the things he did. He would not answer them. But in this passage of Scripture, speaking to the crowd in the Temple, Jesus answered that question.)

Verse 9

He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time.”

- Jesus answered the question put to him in Luke 20:2 by telling the crowd a story about a man who planted a vineyard and then went on a long trip after renting the vineyard to some farmers.

Verse 10-12

“At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.”

- At the agreed to time, the owner of the vineyard sent servants to collect the rent that was due him. However, the tenants refused to honor the contract. They treated each representative sent from the owner progressively worse, but each time they refused to pay the owner what he was due.

Verse 13

“Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’”

- So the owner of the vineyard resolved to send his son to the tenants to collect what was due. He reasoned that they would respect his son even if they did not respect his servants.

Verse 14-15a

“But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.”

- The tenants reasoned that if they killed the heir to the vineyard, the vineyard would then be theirs. So they killed the son.
- The parallels to what would happen to Jesus cannot be missed. The Father had sent his Son and those to whom the Son was sent would kill him.

Verse 15b-16

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “May this never be!”

- Clearly the tenants had totally disregarded the authority of the Father by abusing the Son. They had not recognized the authority of the Father in the Son!
- To the people who heard Jesus’ story, this was impossible. They could not imagine a culture gone so far astray that the authority of the owner of the vineyard given to his son would be so totally disregarded by the tenants. The thought was unthinkable for it meant that nothing could be trusted.

Verse 17

Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone?’”

- Jesus was quoting Psalm 118:22 (see also verse 23). Though it was unthinkable to his hearers, Jesus was saying that he, the Son who came in the authority of the Father, would be rejected by those who were building the temple. They would not recognize the authority given him by God as they had not recognized the authority of the prophets which had come before him, God’s servants. The chief stone in the building, the capstone or cornerstone, would be rejected by the builders of the building.

Verse 18a

“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces...”

- Those who come to Jesus and receive him as Savior will see their sin exposed and will have their hearts open to him.

Verse 18b

“...but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”

- If you refuse to accept the authority of the Father as revealed in the Son, you cannot be saved!

Verse 19

The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Sent From the Father*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)