

2009

Campbell Chapel Free  
Will Baptist Church

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# Responsibility

**CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON**

**Responsibility***April 8, 2009*

Bob Bradley

**Mark 12:1-12**

- 1 And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the wine vat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.*
- 2 And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard.*
- 3 And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty.*
- 4 And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled.*
- 5 And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some.*
- 6 Having yet therefore one son, his well-beloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son.*
- 7 But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.*
- 8 And they took him, and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard.*
- 9 What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.*
- 10 And have ye not read this Scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:*
- 11 This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?*
- 12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.*

The scripture here tonight that we are looking at is part of the events that were taking place on Tuesday, if we understand things correctly. These things would have happened yesterday. This is the last week of Jesus' life. He is going to die on Friday, so these are happening on Tuesday.

This parable came about because of what we talked about last week. Do you remember two or three weeks ago? He goes into the temple. He cleanses the temple. He overturns the money changers tables and drove out all those that bought and sold doves and all the animals that were there. The chief priest, scribes and elders came and said, "Who gives you the authority to do this? Who has delegated you this authority for you to come in here and do what you are doing?" Jesus made the statement, "My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it den of thieves." Do you remember? They were

really upset at Him. As they talked, the chief priest and the leaders here had them a little enterprise inside the temple area. This was where people should have been able to come and worship, should have been able to come and pray, should have been able to come and meditate and praise God and worship Almighty God. However, it was a place of merchandise. It was a place that they just made a business out of.

It would remind us sometimes of the flea markets that we go to. That is really what it would have reminded us of. Inside the place where worship should have been going on, a very holy place, a very sacred place; it should have been a place where people could meet with God, but they made a place of merchandise out of it.

This parable here came about because of what Jesus has done. He has done what He's done here. Then they said, "Hey, who gave you this authority? Who gave you this authority?" He looked at them and said, "I'll tell you who gave me this authority if you will answer me a question. The Baptism of John; was it from heaven or from earth?" They reasoned among themselves and pondered then said, "If we say it was from heaven; then He is going to say why didn't you believe John? If we say it was men then the people are going to get mad at us because all men counted John as a prophet."

They were in a dilemma. They did not know what to say. They did not know what to answer. Therefore they just came along and said, "We cannot tell you. We are not going to tell you the Baptism of John. We don't know where it came from. We are not going to answer that question." Jesus said, "Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things."

The parable here that we are looking at tonight, is in response to all these things. I want you to think about something. We know that Jesus is speaking to the leaders of the nation of Israel. I want you to think, as we look at this parable. This is how God the Father is seeing the nation of Israel. This is the picture. When we read this parable, this is what God the Father is seeing when He looks at the nation of Israel.

I know that we are going to look at some other things, or talk about some other things. There are many great things that we could look at here and many great lessons that we can learn as we look at these parables.

Keep this in your mind.

When you are studying things, if you are going to get anywhere studying the Bible: 1) know who is speaking and 2) and who is being spoken to. If you don't know those two things, then you don't learn much.

This is God looking at the nation of Israel. This is His viewpoint. This is His overview of the nation of Israel.

## Parable

*1 And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the wine vat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.*

Do you remember what a parable is? There are many definitions that we could use for “parable.” However, the definition for “parable” is “throwing something alongside of something.” In other words, if you throw something down here alongside –take something that is truth or genuine and you throw something down beside of it then you can make comparisons from it.” You can draw comparisons from it. The word “parable” means to “toss something alongside of something.” We use it as something that we can look at natural things and relay a spiritual message and things like that. That is probably more of the common things that we may hear about a parable. That is really true because there are many things that have many different meanings in them.

*1 And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the wine vat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.*

## The Nation of Israel

Here Jesus is speaking about the nation of Israel. When He says “...a certain man planted a vineyard...” We know that He is talking about God the Father. When you read the book of Isaiah and when you read in the Old Testament; the nation of Israel is compared many times unto a vineyard. We know that Israel became Israel because of God the Father. God is the One who called Abraham. God is the One that spoke to Abraham. Abraham just did not wake up one day and said “I’m going to start serving the God of heaven.” It was God that called Abraham when he was down in the land of Chaldeans where they worship snakes, frogs, sun, moon, and everything in the world; down there in that place, God called Abraham and made Abraham who he was. The people of the nation of Israel are descendants from Abraham.

## Comparison of Israel to a Vineyard

This nation belongs to God. God is the One; He is the man who owns the vineyard. The vineyard is the nation of Israel.

The Bible says that, “...certain man planted a vineyard...” We know that God planted the nation of Israel. We understand that. We understand that God gave the land of Canaan unto the Children of Israel. We know that. Don’t we? We know that God said, “It’s yours. It’s there. It belongs to you.” We know that God did that.

*1 And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the wine vat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.*

Keep this in your mind. "...he planted a vineyard and set an hedge about it..." What this means is when you look this word up; it means "a wall." That's basically what it means. When people back in those days would plant a vineyard—we do something similar today or used to...

Most people don't plant gardens anymore, but a few people still yet do. A few years ago, we would do different things to keep the animals out of the garden.

Well, a hedge here was just a wall. That's all it was. They would build a wall around their vineyard to keep small animals out. Animals would come in and eat their grapes and destroy the grapes.

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He dug a place for the wine vat. He dug trough or a vat. He dug something here that when the grapes were ready, when they were ripe; they could bring their grapes over to a certain place inside the vineyard here and they could squash their grapes and catch the juice that came out of them. Not only did he build a wall, but he fixed a place here for them to bring their grapes and squeeze their grapes so that they could get the juice out of their grapes.

It says here that he built a tower. A tower was high. You would build a tower so that someone could go up in the tower and look around and see for yards and yards; sometimes, hundreds of yards or miles; they could see when the enemy was approaching.

Not only that but it says that he "...let it out to husbandmen..." The Bible says, "...and went into a far country."

He plants the vineyard  
He puts a wall around it  
He puts a wine press in it  
He built a tower around it  
He let it out to husbandmen  
He goes into a far country

We know that God has called the nation of Israel. We know that He has done that. We know that He called them to be a peculiar people. We understand that. We know that He called them to be a nation of priests. We know that He called them to be a nation where the rest of the world could look around here and see that there was a God in heaven. We know that He planted them in the land. We know that He put a wall around them. He hedged them in. He put a wine press in there. He built a tower there. He did everything. He gave them everything that they needed.

He is the One who planted the vineyard. He built the wall. He put the wine press in there. He built the tower. He did everything that was needed for them to be able to take the fruit that was going to come on the vines and to be able to produce something with it. God gave them everything that they needed. It says that He let it out to husbandmen.

What He does is: plants the vineyard, builds the wall, puts in the wine press, puts in the tower then goes out and says "Here it is. I've got the vineyard planted. I've got the wall built. I've got the tower here. Everything is here. All you have to do is just take care of it. That is all you have to do. It's all here. All you have to do is take care of it."

Isn't it great that we have a God today that there is nothing that we can do to add when it comes to salvation. We can't add anything to that. God has done it all. He is the One that has done it all. He gave these guys some **responsibility** to take care of the vineyard. Didn't He?

### Responsibilities

"...let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country." What that means is that He gave it to some people here to take care of it. "He said here it is. Take care of it. I'm going to take a trip."

Do you know what God does today? God does the same thing today. God gives man some responsibility. When God put man here on planet earth, He gave us some responsibilities. Didn't He?

**The first responsibility that we have is to worship Almighty God.** That is the first responsibility that we have. Isn't it?

He is the One who created the heavens and the earth. Isn't He? He's the One who put the trees out here on the hillside. He's the One who put the water in the ground. He's the One who put the sun, moon and stars out there. God did all that. God did that; not us. Yet He put us here on planet earth.

He put Adam in the garden to till the garden to give him some responsibility.

We have some responsibility today. God has delegated us some responsibility. We take that lightly today. Even our relationship with Him as Christian people; we have some responsibility. **We have some responsibility to do what is right.**

We can't add to our salvation. God saved us.

### Ephesians 2

*8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

We are saved by grace through faith; but not of ourselves. It is a gift of God. We understand that don't we? We should understand that. We cannot add to that.

Because of that we have some responsibility. Because God has saved us; He has placed some responsibility upon us. One of them is to live right.

God never gave us a license to SIN. Even though He saved us by grace; we are kept by the power of God. However, that does not give us the right to go out here and live like the world lives.

To sin  
To lie  
To cheat  
To steal  
Commit adultery

There is something when people say they are saved and do those things. We have some responsibilities towards Almighty God.

He gave these guys [religious leaders] some responsibility.

We have responsibility today. You have responsibility. Every one of you has a responsibility. Not only to your relationship with God, but if you are married then you have a responsibility to your spouse as well. Also you have responsibility to your children, neighbors, co-workers, and to the people at the grocery store to live right, act right, talk right, be right and do right. God gave us that. We are to do that.

*1 And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the wine vat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.*

This is God looking at the nation of Israel. He is speaking to the leaders of the nation of Israel. They are the ones who should have been bearing fruit. They are the ones who should have been teaching people here how to live and the responsibility that God had given. They were the ones who should have been doing right. They were not, but they should have been.

*2 And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard.*

That's fair. Isn't it? The land owner planted a vineyard. He has done all the work for them to be able to bring forth fruit. He has put a hedge about it which means that it brings a certain amount of **protection**. The wine press is there. Anything that they would need to be able to succeed was right there at the vineyard. For them to be able to be productive, for them to be able to be successful with this vineyard; the wine press was right there. That's all they needed. Not only that, but he gave them **security**. There was a wall here. The watchmen would go upon the wall to give the security from all the enemies that were around. Therefore, everything that they needed to be able to be successful in this venture here for the land owner; it was all here.

When the land owner knew that it was time for the grapes to be ready, the Bible says he sent a servant unto them and says "I would like to have some of the fruit." Whatever it was that they agreed upon, and I don't know what it was.

*2 And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard.*

*3 And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty.*

When you look at what has happened here until this time when Jesus is speaking; if you back up several hundred years or two thousand years; do you know what you will find? You will find a nation that God planted, that God called, that God gave everything they needed to succeed and be successful. God gave it all to them. However, it was a nation that failed miserably. We know that. Don't we?

Through our Bible readings we know that. If you have been reading just a little bit of your Bible reading; you will understand how much and how bad the nation of Israel failed. It was not because that God did not give them everything that they needed. God did give them everything that they needed.

They failed because they would not obey God. They failed because they would not follow the plan of God. Men fail today in their relationship with God—not because God is not powerful... it's not because that God cannot keep us, or bless us, or provide for us. It is because that we will not follow the plan of God.

### **Being a Successful Christian**

Our relationship with God; to worship Almighty God and to live for God is not a complicated thing. Everybody in here should have said "Amen" to that. Do you know why we want to make it complicated? Many times we just don't want to do what is here.

We don't have to be rocket scientists to worship Almighty God. We don't have to have a PhD in Physics. Do we? We don't have to have a Master's degree in math. We don't have to have any of that. Do you know what we have to do? We have to have a heart that is willing simply to obey and listen to the voice of Almighty God. We may not be able to read a word in this book. We may not be able to read our name in box car letters. That does not matter. All we have to do is listen to the voice of Almighty God. When we listen to the voice of Almighty God, then we will be a successful Christian. We will succeed in our Christian life. There are many reasons that we fail. The reason that we fail is because that we simply will not listen to the voice of Almighty God.

The land owner sent a servant to get some of the fruit. He knows that it is time for the fruit.

*3 And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty.*

When you look at what the nation here has done prior to Jesus coming; that is exactly what they did. Do you know what God did?

God planted a vineyard, the nation of Israel.  
Gave them everything they needed to succeed  
God expected them to bring forth spiritual fruit  
However that never happened.

God sent Judges to them. God sent priests unto them. God sent Kings. God sent prophets. God sent all kinds of messengers to them trying to get them to produce fruit, but do you know what they would not do? They would not do it.

Do you know what they did to some of these folks? Some of them were mistreated miserably. Some of them, if you read Hebrews, some of them had been stoned. Some of them were even sawed asunder. All of this happened because the land owner—God the Father—was expecting fruit from this nation. He sent these individuals there to receive the fruit. However, they did not get anything. They were even horribly mistreated.

*4 And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled.*

*5 And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some.*

We know that when we look at the nation of Israel, that happened. We know that is exactly what happened. The prophets they killed. They mistreated them. They did all kinds of things to those people that God sent to them.

Isn't it sad that the religious leaders that God was looking at to lead people the way that they should lead people; isn't it sad...to see today that when spiritual leaders—people who say that they are spiritual leaders are leading people astray? It is sad to see that.

There is no doubt in my mind when Jesus looked around here at this nation, when He was here on this particular day; knowing that He was going to die in just a matter of hours—when He looked around and saw the spiritual wickedness that was here among this nation, it had to break His heart. I was flipping through TV; on one of the news channels. Do you know what they were talking about? They were talking about how Christianity was dead, that God was dead, that He wasn't alive no more. These people are supposed to be some kind of spiritual leaders. God is not dead. He is very much alive. He was dead to these people; as far as they were concerned. However, God is still yet alive. He is not even sick. There is nothing wrong with Him. He is going to prove that just shortly. Men are going to know.

It is so sad when spiritual leaders, people who should be teaching people about God, leading people in a closer relationship with God. However, they have made a business out of it. Even in our churches and organizations; when it comes down to the pastors and preachers—in many places it has become a vocation for so many people.

We have a responsibility today, to live right, to do right, to teach people right, and to walk right. Follow me around and see how we walk. See how we live when we are home. See what we do when we are there. Anybody can come to church and smile for thirty minutes or an hour and a half; then go back home and live like the devil.

You go home and beat your wife or husband. We can't do things like that and expect to go to heaven. I don't care how much we come here smile, laugh and joke and carry on. However, it is more than just coming to church. Our relationship with God is more than that. If my relationship wasn't anymore than just coming to church then there would not be much to it.

*5 And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some.*

We know that is exactly what the nation of Israel did to those people that God had sent that their very best in mind; however, instead of receiving these people and receiving the help that came from Almighty God they just killed them. They beat some of them. They killed some of them. They destroyed them.

That is where we are at in America today. People who are trying to live for Jesus Christ and teach people the truth—if you have anything to do with the media, they will crucify you.

The world wants to try to trap you. They want to try to do all kinds of things like that.

### Understanding Possession

*6 Having yet therefore one son, his well-beloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son.*

Here the land owner is. He has sent all these servants. They beat some. They killed some. They stoned some. They have abused them. He says “Hey, I’ve got one beloved Son.” Who else could that be? That could be no other but the Lord Jesus Christ. That could be nobody else. God the Father says “Hey, I’m going to send my Son and they will reverence Him.”

*7 But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.*

Here is what happens. The land owner sends His beloved Son. The husbandmen said “...This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.” Do you know what they thought? Do you know what the husbandmen thought? When they saw the Son of the land owner coming, the heir coming; they thought, “If we get rid of him, then this whole vineyard is going to be ours.”

If we talked to many folks in the world today, we would think that men would want to teach us that planet earth belongs to mankind. That is what many people would want to teach us today. However planet earth does not belong to mankind. Planet earth belongs to Almighty God. This vineyard that He is talking about and I know that He is talking about Israel; but it has some things that we can learn about. There are some things that we can learn from. This vineyard here is this earth that God has given us to work in; the area that we have to work in. As Christians, the area that we have to work in as a church; we have some responsibilities there. We have responsibility to bring forth fruit.

There is going to be a day coming that God is going to come and say “Hey, where is the fruit at?” It’s going to happen just like it did here to this nation. There is going to come a day that every child of God, every individual that has been saved is going to stand before Almighty God at the judgment seat of Christ. The beam of judgment; not to be judged whether we are saved or lost, if you are standing at that judgment seat of Christ, you are saved because you are there. If you are not saved, you are not going to be there. We are going to be rewarded at that time for our faithfulness and how that we have handled and what we have done for the cause of Christ.

The nation, the religious leaders thought when they saw the Son coming we will kill Him and this whole place will be ours. Do you know what they think today? Do you know what the world is saying today?

If we could just get rid of God and the influence of God on planet earth then we could do what we wanted to. We would not have anyone questioning what we done.

Yesterday, I think it was; Vermont passed their bill to legalize—I think it was in Vermont or one of the states up north. One politician had been overseas and one of the statements that he made blows my mind sometimes at how stupid some of these guys are. A politician wants to please everybody. When they are in a crowd of Christian people, they want to talk good things about God. When they are in a crowd of all Muslims, they want to talk about Mohammed. When they are in a crowd of this group, then they want to talk about this group. Do you know what? I don't have confidence in people like that. Whether I'm in a crowd with a bunch of Muslims, Jesus Christ is still yet Lord. It does not matter where we are at. If we are in China and they have little buddha's sitting everywhere; Jesus Christ is still yet Lord. When we deviate from that then we are leading people astray. God has given us responsibility. God has given the leaders of our nation a responsibility. They may not understand it. They may not want to accept it. However, God gave them responsibility because this earth belongs to Him. To govern His people and this nation; there is a responsibility there.

Just like these folks here. They said "If we kill the Son, then the vineyard will be ours." That is really what they are saying today in this world. "We will just get rid of God. If just get Him out of people's minds, if we get rid of the Bible and all these old fogies that says Jesus is Alive and they worship Him and He is going to come back; then we can do whatever we want to do. It all belongs to us.

We are going to leave here one of these days. We are going to be gone for a little while, but it is not going to take them long and they are going to wish that we were back. They are going to start running into the rocks, caves and mountains and be crying for the rocks and the mountains to fall upon them to hide them from the face of Him that sits upon the throne.

They say "Let's kill him."

*8 And they took him, and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard.*

That is what they did. This is on Tuesday. They killed Jesus on Friday. You see, Jesus was telling these religious leaders what they were about to do. Do you know what the sad part about it is here? I read it to you down here. They knew exactly that this parable that Jesus was speaking against them. Didn't I read that to you?

*12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.*

They understood that He was talking to them. "He's talking to us. He's talking about how that we have dealt with the nation. He is talking to us." Do you know what the Bible says here? They killed Him and took Him outside the city to a place called Calvary. There they crucified Him. They killed Him outside the city. They got rid of Him. However that did not change the fact that this place belongs to God. It still yet did not belong to them. It doesn't belong to them today. It belongs to God.

That is all we are. We are just stewards. Someone mentioned about money a little while ago. If we have a trillion dollars in the bank today or if we have a dollar; it all belongs to God. All we are is just

stewards. God gives it to us while we are here to use for His glory. If we use it for His glory then we can enjoy it while we are living here. We are quickly passing off the scene. We understand that. We can enjoy living while we are here if we will just use what He has given us for His glory. Instead of trying to hoard it all up and think that we are going to take it with us. We are just stewards.

The vineyard did not belong to them. This earth does not belong to mankind. This earth belongs to Almighty God. We have some responsibility to care of and do some things with it; but it all belongs to God.

### **Comparison of the Land Owner Destroys Husbandmen to Titus the Roman comes and destroys them**

*9 What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.*

*10 And have ye not read this Scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:*

*11 This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?*

That is exactly what happens. We know that in just a matter of years; this happened in about 30 AD. In 70 AD Titus the roman came and completely destroyed the place. He completely killed people, murdered people and slaughtered people. Do you know why? It was because they killed the land owner's Son.

Folks Listen.

God gave us some responsibility. We had better not take it lightly. Our relationship with God—we had better not take it lightly. God loves us and has the very best in mind for us, but we have some responsibilities to take care of and we had better do it.

*12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.*

They understood when Jesus was speaking this parable; there was no question in their minds “Hey, He is talking to us. He is talking about us.”

That should be something that should open our eyes today. We have some responsibility to Almighty God. Our health belongs to Him. We have a responsibility toward Him for that. We do. Everything about us, whatever it is, we have some responsibility for. God gives us health. God gives us a body here. God gives us children. God gives us all kinds of stuff. We have a responsibility to take care of that. If we want God to bless us, if we want God to be in our lives, if we want God to use us then we have a responsibility to take of it.

Just like little kids. If you buy your kids a new toy and they take a hammer and go outside and bust it up; you might do that once or twice but after a while you will not give them any more toys.

Many times God is the same way. Many times God blesses us and we go outside and take a hammer and beat them up. Many times we do that with our lives, with our bodies, with our relationship with Him.

We have some responsibility today.

Come and pray—