

Luke

See Jesus

Stepping Stone or Stumbling Block?

Luke 20:9-18

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / October 8, 2023

Luke 20:9-18 “And He began to tell the people this parable: ‘A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰ When the time came, he sent a servant 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. ¹¹ And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³ Then the owner of the vineyard said, “What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.” ¹⁴ 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.” ¹⁵ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.’ When they heard this, they said, ‘Surely not!’ ¹⁷ But He looked directly at them and said, ‘What then is this that is written:

“The stone that the builders rejected,
has become the cornerstone”?

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

I. You should be grateful for God’s patient, persistent pursuit of His people!

Luke 20:10-13 “When the time came, **he sent a servant 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. ¹¹ **And he sent another servant**. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² **And he sent yet a third**. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³ Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? **I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.**’”

Luke 13:6-9 “And He told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, “Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?” ⁸ And he answered him, “Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, **but is patient toward you**, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

Isaiah 30:18a “Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.”

II. You will decide if Jesus is the foundation of your faith or the stone by which you’re judged.

Luke 20:15-18 “And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.’ When they heard this, they said, ‘Surely not!’ ¹⁷ But He looked directly at them and said, ‘What then is this that is written:

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has become the cornerstone”?

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

Isaiah 30:18 “Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.”

2 Peter 3:9-10 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

Acts 4:10-12 “...let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing before you well.¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Which of Jesus’ parables is your favorite? Why?
2. How have you experienced God’s patient, persistent pursuit of His people?
3. Do you think you “give up” on others too quickly? Why or why not?
4. Pastor Peter said, “We all deserve to be stoned.” Why is that important to remember?
5. Is Jesus the rock upon which your faith is built or the stone by which you’ll be judged?