

Wednesday, April 8 ~ The Vineyard's New Cornerstone ~  
Mark 12:1-11

The Parable of the Tenants is one of the few parables that contains obvious, pointed, and purposeful characterization focused on those to whom Jesus was speaking. In fact, it says the Jewish leaders recognized they were the original tenants in the story. Although the message was directed at that audience, there are connections we can draw to our own life today.

**God's Goodness** carefully and thoughtfully created a vineyard in which He cared for the tenants. **His Grace** gave them the opportunity to turn from doing harm and accept His servants and, ultimately, His beloved Son. As Jesus concluded the parable, He reminded them of Psalm 118:22, 23 that foreshadows their final rejection leading to His brutal death. However, the Scripture then states He will be the **Cornerstone**, and it is marvelous for the new tenants - those who believe in Jesus.

This historical parable, which Jesus shared millennia ago, still provides us an honest opportunity to reflect on our own lives today. As the new tenants in His vineyard, what kind of fruit are we bearing? Are we rejecting His servants, His guidance, and others' advice at times? Is He the cornerstone of our lives? Are we willing to be one of His servants and even face rejection? The good news is that, regardless of our answers, we can turn from "Ashes to Glory" through Christ and, in turn, do no harm and produce a fruitful harvest for Him.

*Alicia Braswell is the Director of Training for Varsity Spirit Fashion. She and her husband, Kim, have a son, Cad (12), and daughter, Cate (10). They have been members of Madison First UMC for the past 3½ years.*

## The Parable of the Tenants

**12** Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. <sup>2</sup>At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. <sup>3</sup>But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup>Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. <sup>5</sup>He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

<sup>6</sup>"He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

<sup>7</sup>"But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' <sup>8</sup>So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

<sup>9</sup>"What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup>Haven't you read this passage of Scripture:

"The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
<sup>11</sup>the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes'<sup>[a]</sup>?"

### Footnotes:

- a. [Mark 12:11](#) Psalm 118:22,23