

Mar. 26 - Scripture: Luke 20: 1-26

Verses that speak to you: Verses 17-18. Jesus summed up His parable of the tenants by quoting David's words from Psalm 118:20. Jesus is warning us not to reject the One who God sent, for like the capstone or cornerstone of a building, Jesus is the rock and foundation that is essential for building our lives.

Observation: Throughout this entire passage, the teachers of the law and chief priests are looking for ways to trap Jesus in a statement that would give them grounds to remove Him from the people. Jesus, of course, saw through their efforts and spoke directly to them through the parable of the tenants. The servants who repeatedly come to the vineyard represent the prophets God sent to the people of Israel in former times who were rejected. Then God (who is the owner of the vineyard) sent His Son whom He loved and the tenants killed Him. Jesus, calling Himself the capstone in verses 17 and 18, describes the doom that will befall those who choose to reject Him (they will be crushed beneath the stone!).

Application: Today, as we see Jesus moving among us, many are rejecting Him as the capstone the builders rejected. Like the Pharisees, many are still trying to remove Him from His people. Thankfully, many others are turning to Jesus, choosing to embrace life and light through His grace and unending love. To me verse 18 means that when we "fall on Him" we may be "broken to pieces" as He works to change us from the inside out. Although, painful at first (like most big changes in our lives are), as we grow to know Him better, a beautiful transformation begins. As we strive to be more like Him and less like the world around us, some of His love, grace and mercy spills over onto those around us. Submit yourself wholly to Jesus every day, keep your spiritual eyes open, and you will be amazed by the miracles He will place before you!

Prayer: Merciful and loving Heavenly Father, Thank you for sending your Son to earth to walk with us for a short while and then die for our sins. Please open the eyes and ears and soften the hearts of the lost. Help us to rely on you daily for our strength and for your direction in our lives. Equip us daily with everything we need to be your hands and feet in a hurting world. Amen.

Writer: Kathy Bils is married with three children. Our family has belonged to Eastminster for over 13 years. I am currently serving as an elder on the session, teach a bible basics Sunday school class for adults and lead Girls of Faith for 5th and 6th graders.