

## **“The Very Stone!”**

(03-17-13)

Look at Luke 20. The skit you just heard is based on Luke 20, and we see those with power rejecting Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Why? Was it because of His magnetism with the crowd? Or was it because He always was pointing out their errors and they were losing power over the people?

This whole idea of rejection was not something new for the people of Israel! God continually sent prophets who spoke the Word of God to them, but instead of them believing and following, they rejected God’s Word! They thought they could be in control instead of God!

We saw this type of mentality in the tenants of the vineyard. They rented the land from the owner and worked it. When the harvest came in, the workers would sell the product and they would get some of the profit for their work, the rest would be rent that went to the owner. The problem came when the owner sent a servant to collect!

The workers weren’t too happy about the arrangement and weren’t happy to turn anything over to the servant. So they beat each one sent and turned them away without anything that really belonged to the owner of the vineyard.

This went on until the owner sent his son to the vineyard. He thought the tenants would respect him. But when they saw the son, they saw a real opportunity to take control. They thought if they could get rid of the son, the vineyard would be theirs! There’s a flaw in this type of thinking, but the tenants weren’t thinking rationally!

Look at verses 15-16, *“And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”* When they heard this, they said, *“Surely not!”*

This story of Jesus was not a parable to talk about vineyards and tenants, but to talk about the Jewish leaders. In the parable, God is the owner of the vineyard, the tenants are the religious leaders, the servants are the prophets, and the beloved Son is Jesus Himself! The point isn’t the vineyard’s productivity, but the anger and rejection of the tenants. But through it all we see the patience of the owner!

Go on to verses 17-18, *“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”? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”* As Jesus is talking about the stone being rejected, He’s talking about what’s going to happen in the next days by Him being accused, beaten, and crucified.

This rejection wasn’t just for that time, but it’s also for us today! People still reject the teachings of Jesus, and the truth of God’s Word. We see it attacked on every side! God will judge those who have turned away from Him and not walk the walk of faith. The result of rejecting Him now is the same result the tenants receive: condemnation and death! Those who don’t believe will be condemned for eternity!

But for us as believers, God has caused His powerful Word to work in our hearts. By His grace we’re able to see and believe and know Jesus Christ is *“The Very Stone.”* God reminds us that Jesus Himself is the cornerstone of our faith, and the cornerstone of our life!

Go to Acts 4. In Acts we’re told the words of the Apostles as they preached those first sermons after Pentecost. They reminded the people of the importance of Christ and Christ alone! Look at verses 11-12, *“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 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.”*

Jesus is your cornerstone! He came to earth to suffer and die in your place! His death and resurrection saves you as you walk by faith. The world is going to try to give

you all kinds of reasons why believing in Jesus Christ is wrong and convince you to reject Him. But stand firm! Believe and follow Him with all your heart! As you do, salvation is yours for eternity!