

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - Day 12 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you know that in this world we are under great pressure, so that at times, we fall, we get hurt, we are wounded, we retreat. Remind us that in our weakness, Your strength is enough. You can pick us up and place us on the path You desire for us to walk. You can heal any wound or hurt. And when we retreat, we can retreat to the shadow of the cross, and abide in You. This week, help me find refuge in You, O Lord. Amen.

Read Psalm 118:22-24 (NIV)

**The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.**

Answer the following questions:

Psalm 118 is quoted in the New Testament, by Jesus, as He is teaching what is now referred to as the Parable of the Tenants. You can pause here and read it in Mark 12 and Matthew 21. (PAUSE)

But to summarize quickly for you who won't turn and read those passages... The owner of the vineyard (we find out this is God) entrusts his property to others (those others are humanity), and the owner travels abroad. While away, the owner sends servants back to collect His share of the fruit from the land, which is still his. Notice it says, "His portion." We will discuss that in just a little while. As the servants (prophets) arrive on behalf of the owner (God), the tenants (humanity) beat them and kill them. So the owner sends His Son (Jesus) to collect the fruit. They kill Him too.

Jesus, in telling the parable, then quotes this passage from Psalm 118. Let's unpack this more together.

1. If God is the owner and we are the tenants, what is the fruit we are supposed to be giving Him?
2. Does the owner who owns everything expect everything to be given back which was earned on His behalf? Why would the text say "His Portion."

3. What does God expect you to “earn” in this world, with all that He has entrusted to you? And what would “His portion” look like if you responded differently than the tenants or stewards?
4. As Jesus quotes Psalm 118, which refers to the response the world will have to Jesus, what is He pointing out to the disciples and all who are listening?
5. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus was not surprised when he was dragged away by the authorities, beaten, flogged and killed. God foretold us this would happen thousands of years before it actually did. His Word is clear. “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes.” Christ became the cornerstone of our salvation. Praise the Lord!

God is good, and His love endures forever. His mercies are new every morning! Therefore, let us throw off the sin that so easily entangles and run the race marked out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let us run to the refuge of the King, and allow Him to care for us, equipping us to continue the race.

Close in Prayer

Rather than me giving you a prayer to close with this week, take a few moments and write a prayer today which relates to God’s refuge. Put it on a post-it note and leave it on your bathroom mirror, that will give you 6 different prayers by the end of the week to pray as you get ready in the morning, or wind down in the evening.