

## **Give Him the Grapes** Mark 11:27 - 12:12

### **Questioning the Authority of Jesus** Mark 11:27-33

Mark 11:28 – *“By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority...”*

- Mark 11:18 - *“The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.”*
- The chief priests, scribes and elders make up the Sanhedrin, a 70-member Jewish ruling council.

### **In the same story, Jesus condemns those who reject God’s authority and He shows God’s radical love and grace** Mark 12:1-9

Mark 12:6 – *“He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ”*

- The elements of the parable and their meaning:
  - Vineyard - Israel
  - Owner - God the Father
  - Slaves - Prophets
  - Vine-growers - Religious and/or political leaders of Israel
  - Son of the owner - Jesus
  - Others - This could be the Gentiles but is more likely the leadership of the apostles under Christ’s authority
- Isaiah 5:1-7
- Beloved Son - Mark 1:11; 9:7; John 3:16
- Stephen tells the religious leaders that they rejected the prophets and Jesus in Acts 7:51-54. They gnashed their teeth and killed him. However, one of them was Saul/Paul who ended up taking the gospel to many. God can take rejection and sin, but turn it into love and grace.

### **Do you reject or receive the Son of the Vineyard Owner?** Mark 12:10-12

Mark 12:10 – *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone”*

- Psalm 118:22-23
- Do you think you are in charge like the religious leaders and reject the authority of Jesus as Lord and Savior?
- Do you receive Jesus and His authority and trust in His persistent love and grace?

## Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

1. When reading the Bible, whether the stories about real biblical people or the parables Jesus told, do you always think of yourself as the hero in the story or do you ever identify with the disobedient person or the person the parable is condemning? Explain.
2. Who do you identify with in this parable? Why?
3. How do you respond to confrontation? Are you tempted to respond like these scribes and priests? How can we grow in receiving confrontation in a healthy way?
4. Tell the story of when you responded to the gospel by receiving it rather than rejecting it?

## Next Steps:

**JOIN A LIFEGROUP:** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. To get involved or for more information, contact Connections + LifeGroups Pastor, Robert Carter, at [rcarter@calvarylife.org](mailto:rcarter@calvarylife.org), or indicate "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the chair rack in the seat in front of you). [calvarylife.org/lifegroups](http://calvarylife.org/lifegroups)

**EXPLORE THE ALPHA COURSE:** Do you think about how, where, and if God fits into this life? If you're wondering who Jesus really is, or if you've been following Him for a while but still have some big and basic questions, then Alpha is for you. Come join the adventure and explore big questions of life, faith and purpose in this 8-week journey on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Lobby! Discover more at [calvarylife.org/alpha](http://calvarylife.org/alpha)

## In Response:

**COMMUNION:** Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

**GIVING:** The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or [calvarylife.org/give](http://calvarylife.org/give)

**PRAYER POINTS:** These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

**PRAYER ROOM:** The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.