**Who Owns the Vineyard?**

A Matter of Authority

Mark 11:27-12:12

Pastor Enoch Gray

**I. The challenge to Jesus' authority**

A) Why the offence?

B) Christ's response: Where did the baptism of John come from?

C) The religious leaders dilemma.

D) Jesus' refusal to directly answer their question.

**II. The story that offends**

A) Important background information:

*1) This story is grounded in a normative cultural practice of that day.*

*2) The story alludes to the story of a vineyard given by the prophet Isaiah.*

*3) The approach of Christ in this passage is similar to that of the prophet Nathan when he corrected David.*

B) The thrust of the story:

*1) Failing to respect God's authority, live as he commands, and listen to his greatest messenger (his Son) results in horrific consequences.*

C) The key to interpreting the story--the rejected stone.

*1) It identifies the religious leaders who were the "builders" of the nation as the tenants in the story.*

*2) It highlights Jesus as the rejected son.*

*3) It hints at Christ's vindication-that his death is not the final chapter in the story.*

*4) It identifies who the new tenants will be-those who build their life on the foundation of this rejected stone.*

**III. Application**