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Mark 12:1-12

- *Hey*
 - *The image of "your nose is getting longer."*
 - *"Click your heels three times."*
 - *How bout them apples?*
- *You*
 - *This story begins with a vineyard.*
 - *In Isaiah chapter 5, it has the same story. Almost word-for-word. A land owner planted a vineyard. He did everything for it. Dug a fence and a watch tower, but it yielded only sour grapes. What more could he have done!*
 - *Israel is the vineyard. The grapes are the fruit that Israel bore. They did not bear good fruit, and so they were exiled to Babylon.*
- *Look*
 - *Jesus starts out the parable and they know this story backwards and forwards, to the point where the landowner leaves the vineyard to some tenants and goes away on a journey. Then they're like, what?*
 - *Central in Jesus' version of this story is the tenants instead of the vineyard itself and the fruit that is produced.*
 - *It becomes a story, not about Israel and the Jewish people, but the religious leaders themselves. They are the ones in the story that are directly mismanaging God's people.*
 - *Even worse than mismanaging is that they are trying to keep the vineyard for themselves. They want to take advantage of this resource and of the landowner's absence.*
 - *They were charged with stewarding, but instead they want to take it for themselves.*
- *Do*
 - *How will God hold the church accountable for the way it is stewarding the Gospel message?*
 - *How will God hold the pastors accountable for the way they are leading their group?*
 - *How will God hold each of us accountable for how we are handling the gifts that God has entrusted to us?*
 - *It comes down to God owning all that we have. It is all on loan to us from God from the bodies that we inhabit to the money that we earn from the energy that we invest that came from the food that we ate that grew from the ground that God owns.*
 - *The only thing that belongs truly to us are our choices. And this parable brings it home for the religious leaders. They recognize that they are the ones being convicted by Jesus' words. And Jesus is a threat to them. So they plan to have him killed.*
 - *Do we hold on to what we hold so tightly that we forget the people around us? It's a trap that we fall into the more we hold. But ultimately, none of these things truly belong to us.*
 - *It is not up to us to preserve and protect what is ours. Merely to manage what we are holding. To remember that it all belongs to God, now and in the end.*