

# The Cornerstone

Mark 12:1-12

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**12 And he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country.**

- An allusion to God’s nurturing care for the nation **(Isa. 5:1-7)**
  - A fence for protection
  - A tower for watchmen and shelter
  - Entrusted to stewards in anticipation of a harvest

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**2 When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. 3 And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed.**

- The one he “sent to take” got “took and sent” away
- A reference to God’s servants the prophets

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**4 Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. 5 And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed.**

- *29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, 30 saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ 31 Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers.” - Matthew 23*

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**6 He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' 8 And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.**

- Jesus, God's final plea to His people
- *"If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."* **(John 11:48)**
- *"So Jesus also suffered outside the gate..."* **(Heb. 13:12)**

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## 9 What will the owner of the vineyard do?

- They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” (Matt. 21:41)

**He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others.**

- The physical destruction of the nation was imminent **(13:1-2)**
- *“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.”*  
**(Matt. 21:43)**

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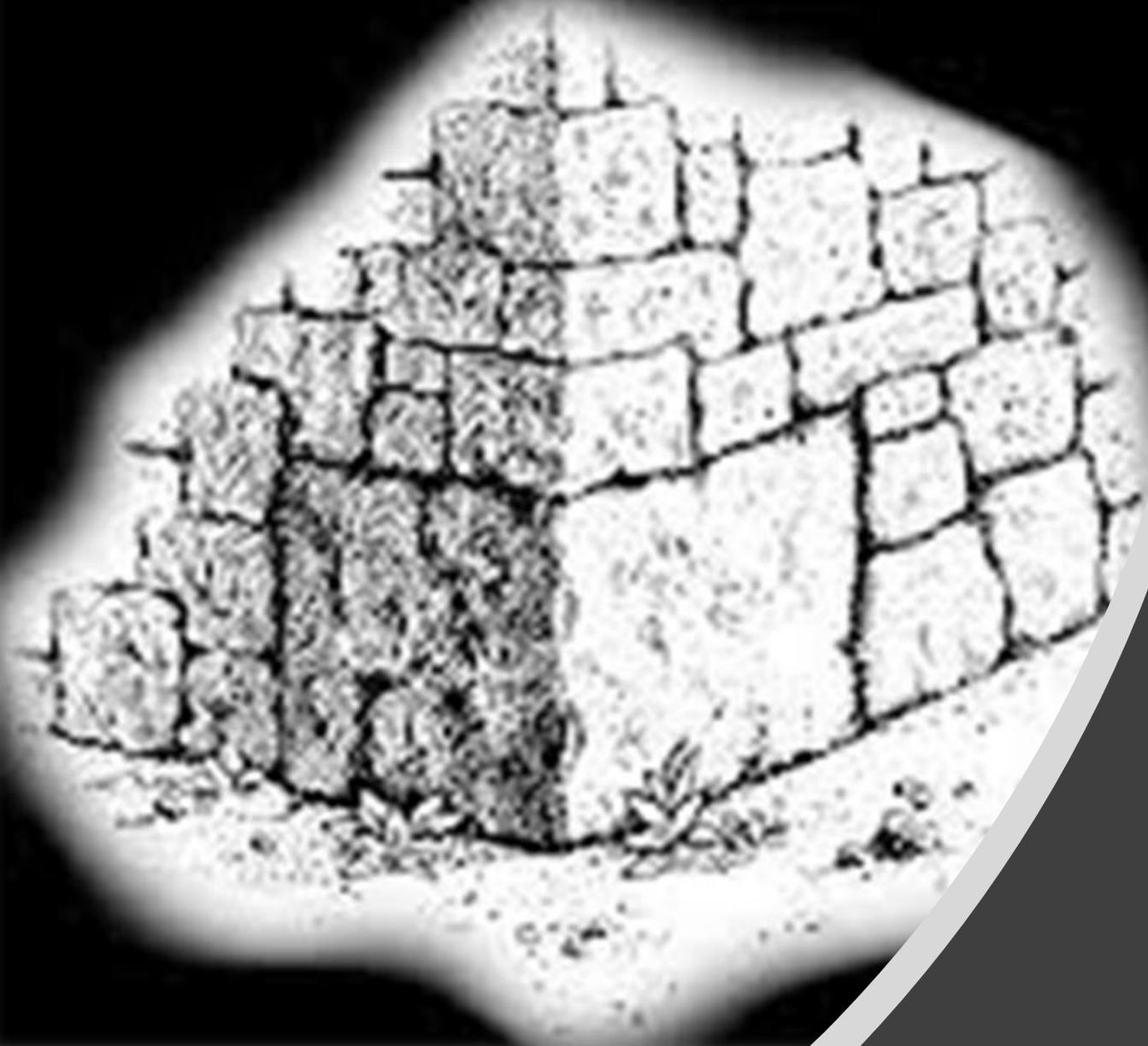
**10 Have you not read this Scripture:  
“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
11 this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”**



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**12 And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.**

- They did understand His words
- They did not see themselves in His words
- *“Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”*  
**(John 9:41)**
- **There is none so blind as one who will not see**



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