

**LOOSENING MY GRIP
ON MY LIFE...
TIGHTENING MY GRIP ON GOD**

Luke 20:9-19

Luke 20:9-19 (NLT)

Parable of the Evil Farmers

9 Now Jesus turned to the people again and told them this story: “A man planted a vineyard, leased it to tenant farmers, and moved to another country to live for several years. **10** At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop. But the farmers attacked the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed.

Luke 20:9-19 (NLT)

11 So the owner sent another servant, but they also insulted him, beat him up, and sent him away empty-handed. **12** A third man was sent, and they wounded him and chased him away. **13** “‘What will I do?’ the owner asked himself. ‘I know! I’ll send my cherished son. Surely they will respect him.’”

Luke 20:9-19 (NLT)

14 “But when the tenant farmers saw his son, they said to each other, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’

15 So they dragged him out of the vineyard and murdered him.

“What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to them?” Jesus asked.

Luke 20:9-19 (NLT)

16 “I’ll tell you—he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others.”

“How terrible that such a thing should ever happen,” his listeners protested.

17 Jesus looked at them and said, “Then what does this Scripture mean?

‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’

Luke 20:9-19 (NLT)

18 Everyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.”

19 The teachers of religious law and the leading priests wanted to arrest Jesus immediately because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the people’s reaction.

- ❖ **God is the owner of this vineyard...I'm his hired hand. And don't forget it!**
- ❖ **Playing King of the Hill with the King of the Universe is sheer madness.**
- ❖ **Any excuses for not letting God be God should die on our lips.**
- ❖ **Surrender and true service ...a win-win approach to working with God.**

How Do You Tell A Story Without Actually Telling The Story?

- ❖ Parables...sometimes thinly veiled.
(The Prodigal's Older Bro...the 'cross over' guys in the Good Samaritan story...)
- ❖ A familiar piece of Middle Eastern agriculture...a Vineyard.
(Common saying: Each man under his own fig tree: I Kings 4:25, ;Isaiah 34:4, others)

How Do You Tell A Story Without Actually Telling The Story?

- ❖ Here is a true allegory...parts represent something else in real life.
(A man...God Tenants...Religious leaders)

Tenant Farmers, Share Croppers... Share The Harvest with the Owner

- ❖ **The temptation is to keep the whole crop.**
- ❖ **Once the goods are in our hands it can be tough to voluntarily release our grip on the goods.**
- ❖ **Shameful behavior....beating and wounding those sent to give the owner his due.**
- ❖ **And the son....even worse! Throw him outside the vineyard and kill the boy!**

Jesus' Listeners Get the Point

- ❖ A spontaneous response: “May it never be!”
- ❖ But Jesus puts the shoe of prophecy on their feet: A perfect fit, indeed!
 - ❖ Psalm 118:22
 - ❖ Isaiah 14-15
 - ❖ Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45

Jesus' Listeners Get the Point

- ❖ **It is an age-old kind of rebellion:**
 - ❖ **I'll not be accountable**
 - ❖ **"I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul!" W E Henley**
 - ❖ **I will not bow.**

War With God...The Most Common Battle

- ❖ **Use life's circumstances to justify our rebellion?**
- ❖ **Ever resent God's claim on your life?**
- ❖ **Place yourself against God's will and word?**
- ❖ **There are wayward children...and then there are enemies of God...what's the difference?**
- ❖ **Getting tripped up by Jesus...only spells D O O M.**

Do I Have A Tight Grip On That Which I Need To Release To God?

- ❖ **Time**
- ❖ **Passion...my heart**
- ❖ **Skills and life-tools**

Can we sing it together: I surrender all?

**All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live**

**I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all**



Confession

**I believe that Jesus is
the Christ, the Son of
the living God.**

**I trust Him as my
Lord and Savior.**



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- ❖ **Any excuses for not letting God be God should die on our lips.**
- ❖ **Surrender and true service ...a win-win approach to working with God.**

I Surrender ALL...

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