

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**LUKE 20****Luke 20**

The week of the Passover, Jesus was in and out of the temple complex. He taught the people in the temple area and on the way back and forth to Bethany. In Luke twenty, we have confrontations with the religious leaders, the chief priests, scribes, especially the Pharisees and Sadducees. These leaders questioned Jesus about His authority and were puzzled and humiliated when they could not give an answer to a question asked by Jesus. The religious leaders wanted yes or no answers, but the Lord showed everyone that sometimes the best answer to a question is to ask a question to the inquisitors about their question being posed. This type of dialogue often reveals motives and silences those who have ill intent with the line of questioning.

Luke 20:9 begins the "Parable of the Vineyard," and at the close of the parable, it was driven home by Jesus to the point that the chief priests and scribes wanted to "**lay hands-on Jesus**" but were fearful of the people who were listening and following the story. The parable of the Vineyard and the vinedressers is not hard to follow. It can be explained by understanding those who are the main characters of the Story, and goes as follows:

The **Vineyard** is the **Nation of Israel** born from the covenantal relationship with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

(Israel). The **Vinedressers** are the **religious leaders** to whom Jesus was speaking and that were continually seeking to trap Him in a religious web of their own making. The **Owner of the Vineyard** is the **Father God in heaven**. The **Servant (Greek- δοῦλον, doulon-willing, loyal bond slave/servant)**, the loyal servants in the parable represent the **Prophets**, and the harsh treatment of those prophets sent by God who were shamefully treated, and some sealed their prophecies with their lives. The Owner of the Vineyard finally sent his beloved son with authority as His heir to set things in order. The beloved son was not only mistreated but was murdered. The reasoning of the wicked vine dressers was to kill the heir so they would receive everything that would rightfully have gone to the beloved son. **Jesus then asks the question of those listening, "Therefore, what will the owner of the vineyard do to them?"** Jesus answered the question that He asked, "**He (the owner) will come and destroy those vinedressers and give the vineyard to others.**" He then proceeded to quote Psalm 118:22, which is read at each Passover Seder and would have been known very well by the religious leaders. "**The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**" **And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people—for they knew He had spoken this parable against them."**

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, please give me discernment to know the season of time in which I am living, and to be careful to be mindful to realize when You are working in the Kingdom all around me. Help me to be sensitive to those You send my way to teach me the truth about who You are and what You are doing in this season. Amen