

Peace in Being Broken

Luke 20:9—20

Introduction

This Lent we have been talking about finding peace in Jesus. In Times of Temptation, He gives us peace by giving us victory over it or forgiving us if we fall. Under His Wings we find peace in His comfort in loss, protection from the devil, and shelter in the storms of life. When we Repent, He gives us peace with God. In His Forgiveness, we have deliverance from sin, death, and the devil, love in the family of God, and the hope of eternal life as we share His Gospel of Peace. Today, we look at **PEACE IN BEING BROKEN**.

The Message of the Wicked Tenants

What prompted the parable of the Wicked Tenants was the question the chief priests, scribes, and elders asked Jesus: *“By what authority do You do these things, or Who is it that gave You this authority?”* (**Luke 20:2**). First, Jesus lets them know that His authority is directly related to John the Baptist’s and then answers their question with this parable. John was the last of the “servants” sent to collect the fruit, that is, to call Israel to repentance. Jesus is the Son, with the Father’s complete authority. He tells them what they will do to Him, kill Him outside the city gates. But they will be judged. The Father will see to that.

Jesus Is the Cornerstone

Jesus compares Himself to *the stone that the builders rejected [which] has become the cornerstone* (**v. 17**). This quote is from **Psalms 118**, from which we get, *blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord* (**v. 26**). This is what the people shouted when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Everyone would recognize this as a messianic Psalm. The kingdom of God is built on this Cornerstone.

The Church’s One Foundation

Two things to remember about cornerstones. 1) The cornerstone is the most important stone in a building. It must be level and square because the whole building is measured off it. Everything must be in line with the cornerstone. 2) Being in the corner, it unites two walls together. Jesus is our Cornerstone, the church’s one Foundation. He is perfect and true. The whole building must align with and be plum with Him. His Word is the mortar that holds us together. That’s why it is so important that the Word of God is our sole authority for living. Jesus Christ unites Jew and Gentile in Him.

The Stone of Judgment

In **verse 18**, Jesus says, *“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”* It’s obvious that the stone falling on someone is judgment. All those who reject the Son will be crushed under the entire weight of the Law. They will be doomed to spend eternity in hell, *where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched* (**Mark 9:48**). Just as Jesus crushed Satan’s head on the cross, He will crush all who oppose Him when He comes again.

Broken on Him

But what does it mean that all who fall on that stone will be broken to pieces? When my dad was in the Army during WW II, basic training consisted of two parts: the first half of the time was breaking down the individuals and the second half was building them into a cohesive fighting unit. When we fall on the Cornerstone, our sinfulness, willfulness, and self-centeredness are broken down and we are built up in Christ. Peter says (read 1 Peter 2:4—5).

The Stone of Peace

The peace is in knowing that it doesn’t matter what the world does to us, our Cornerstone is the Rock of Ages. He will be there, holding us up throughout all eternity. There is nothing we can suffer that He is unfamiliar with. He has suffered and died on the cross to take our sins away. Since His resurrection, He watches over us, protects and defends us, provides for us, and saves us. We have peace with God when we fall on Jesus the Cornerstone.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
