



# The Life of Jesus (74)

## The Parable of The Tenants (2)

Luke 20:9-18



# #1 The Parable of the Tenants

## 3. God's Great Patience and Grace

The third thing we can learn is God's great patience and grace as shown in His repeatedly sending His servants.

The tenant farmers beat the first servant the owner had sent to them and sent him away empty-handed. But, this owner, who represents God, sent a second servant, who was also mistreated. But still, he sent another, whom they wounded and cast out.

What Jesus is showing us through the parable is **the unreasonable, illogical, and thus great patience and grace of God.**

Like the owner, God sent His prophets to Israel over and over again when they failed to produce fruit. Even though they didn't listen to the prophets but persecuted and killed them instead, God didn't give up but continuously gave His message through His prophets. **In the midst of the Israelites' repeated rebellion and sin God continued to show them His faithfulness and grace.**

## #2 The Parable of the Tenants

### 3. God's Great Patience and Grace

“Where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Rm 5:20).

Far beyond human expectations, God patiently sent prophet after prophet to warn His people to turn from their sins and return to Him. By doing so, God demonstrated His great patience and grace toward His people.

That's what we have experienced as Christians knowingly or unknowingly. In fact, **it's only because of God's patience and grace that we can boldly stand before Him.**

If God hasn't been gracious to us, there would be no one who could go before His presence. If God weren't patient with us, no one here could flee from His wrath being poured out on our sins.

## #3 The Parable of the Tenants

### 3. God's Great Patience and Grace

“Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance... Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation...” (2Pt 3:8-9, 15)

The reason it's taking a long time for Jesus to return is not because God is slow in keeping His promises but because He is so patient with us. God is waiting for all people on earth to hear the good news of Jesus Christ so that they might return to Him through His Son.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Mt 24:14)

This is the moment God is waiting for. Until that time, God will be patient with us, waiting for us to repent and return to Him with all our hearts.

## #4 The Parable of the Tenants

### 3. God's Great Patience and Grace

When we look back on the journey of our faith, we see how faithfully and patiently God has guided us to Him. He has sent us preachers and teachers who proclaim the truth of His word. He has given us His word, the Bible, which we can read.

We've failed many times but God has never failed us. We've rejected Him many times, but God has never let go of us. He faithfully leads us to Himself with His unfailing love and mercy. In fact, we can find traces of His patience and grace in every aspect of our lives.

Then, the important question is, how should we respond to His patience and grace? As Paul said, we should “**not to receive God's grace in vain**” (2Co 6:1)

We should never try to use His patience and grace as excuses for our failures. **God has given us His grace to allow us to turn away from our sins, not make an excuse for them.**

## #5 The Parable of the Tenants

### 3. God's Great Patience and Grace

“Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that **God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?** But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.” (Rm 2:4-5)

If we only think of God's grace as a way to cleanse our sins, we're actually showing contempt for His grace. That's because **God has given us His grace not only to forgive our sins but also to allow us to repent, return to Him, and bear fruit of repentance.**

God's great patience in His dealings with us should motivate us to live accountable to Him, bearing fruit with our lives. That's how we truly receive God's grace as He intended.

## #6 The Parable of the Tenants

### 4. God's Great Love

When the third servant came, they wounded him and threw him out. That was how they responded to the owner's patience and grace. But still, the owner sent one more person. This time, instead of his servant, he sent his beloved son. The owner knew that they might harm the son as well. But still, he sent him anyway.

We see God's great love here because God also sent His one and only Son to the world and had Him die on the cross to save us from our sins.

In the parable, the greatness of the father's heart is emphasized even more considering how wicked the tenants were toward him.

Likewise, the greatness of God's love was clearly and dramatically revealed in how sinful and undeserving we were when Jesus died for us. We didn't deserve His love at all, but God didn't even spare His only Son. This shows how great, unconditional, and never-failing God's love is for us.



## #7 The Parable of the Tenants

### 5. God's Great Love

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rm 5:8)

Bearing the penalty for every sin that had been and would be committed, Jesus died on the cross as the Lamb of God without any defect. He was sinless, but He was cursed. He was innocent, but He was subject to God's severe judgment and wrath because He bore our sins.

Because Jesus was crushed, shed His blood, and died on the cross, we can be forgiven and healed. How amazing and great is God's love for us! **Every single drop of the blood of Jesus Christ shouts that God loves us.**

That's the great, infinite love of God we see from the owner sending his son in the parable. Only when we're filled with His love, can we live accountable to Him. **We should let His love motivate and empower us.** Then we'll truly be able to surrender our whole lives to Him, professing that He is their true owner.



## Memory Verses

“Where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Rm 5:20) (1)

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise... Instead **he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish**, but everyone to come to repentance... Bear in mind that **our Lord’s patience means salvation...**” (2Pt 3:9, 15) (2)

“Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that **God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?**” (Rm 2:4) (1)

“**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us**” (Rm 5:8) (1)

## Reflection Questions

- 1) Have you experienced God's patience and grace? When and how? How are they important in your faith life? What are some ways not to receive God's grace in vain?
- 2) Do you know that God loves you? How do you know? How has God's love affected your life?