

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Drawn from “The Tenants and the Vineyard,” A Sermon on Mark 12:1-12

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Presbyterian Church

February 1, 2026 AM

1. Central to the sermon and sermon text is the metaphor of agriculture. Talk about your experiences cultivating fruit or crops, growing plants, tending a garden, or visiting a vineyard (or garden). How do those experiences shed light on Jesus’ parable?
2. When Jesus imagined the people of God as a vineyard, he was not inventing a new metaphor, but riffing on an image frequently used in the Old Testament. What are some of the other places that the Bible uses this imagery? What does it tell us about the Lord’s perspective on His people that He so frequently describes us as a vineyard?
3. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti argued that the heart of the tenant’s unfaithfulness was their shift from a mindset of service to a mindset of ownership. At the same time, it is common in today’s organizational lingo to hear the metaphor of “ownership” used in positive senses (e.g. feeling invested in and responsible for the company or society to which one belongs). Discuss and evaluate the way we use the concept and terminology of “ownership.” Can there be a positive sense of “feeling ownership” as a church member/leader, or is it just the wrong metaphor?
4. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti suggested that church history (both distant and recent) amply illustrates the temptation for leaders and authority figures to “behave as if the Church (or a church) belonged to them – like the tenants in this parable.” Where do you see examples of this problem?

