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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Landlords, Tenants and Taxes

Mark 12:1-17

Series: Getting In on the Good News
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passage

Mark 12:7–11 (NIV) — 7 “But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ 8 So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. 9 “What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture: “‘**The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; 11 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?**”

Mark 12:17 (NIV) — 17 Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” And they were amazed at him.

Central Thought: We get in on the Good News when we affirm Jesus as Lord of the Church and King of the earth and, as God’s image bearers, submit to and follow him into his kingdom purposes rather than co-opting him for our personal, political or religious agendas.

The Big Picture

❖ We are tenants in God’s world.

Psalms 24:1–2 (NIV) — 1 The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; 2 for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. (See also Genesis 1 & 2; Isaiah 5:1-7)

❖ We are servants in Christ’s Church. (vs. 10)

Matthew 16:18 (NIV) — 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Romans 1:1 (NIV) — 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God... (See also James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1)

The High Calling – As God’s Image Bearers...

❖ We are caretakers of his creation - called to steward the planet toward its fruitful potential.

Genesis 1:27–28 (NIV) — 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

❖ We are ambassadors of God’s love – called to serve humanity in the Spirit of Jesus Christ toward reconciliation. (vs. 17)

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 (NIV) — 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us...

Luke 22:27 (NIV) — 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? **But I am among you as one who serves.**