Mark

The **Gospel** of the **Servant of God**

I. The ***Service*** of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

II. The ***Sacrifice*** of the **Servant** (11:1-16:20)

A. **His *Triumphal*** Entry into **Jerusalem** – Sunday (11:1-11)
B. **His *Tempered* Response** to **Fruitlessness** and **Temple Impurity** – Monday (11:12-19)

C. **His *Teachings*** in **Jerusalem** (11:20-13:37)

1. The ***Power*** of **Faith** (11:20-26)
2. The ***Probing* Question** on **Authority** (11:27-33)

3. The ***Parable*** of the **Wicked Vine-growers** (12:1-12)

12 And **He** began to speak to them in **parables**:

"A **man** PLANTED A **VINEYARD** AND PUT **A WALL** AROUND IT,
AND DUG A **VAT** UNDER THE **WINE PRESS** AND BUILT A **TOWER,**
and **rented it** out to **vine-growers** and went on a **journey**.

2 At the ***harvest* time** he sent a **slave** to the **vine-growers**,
in order to **receive** *some* of the **produce** of the **vineyard** from the **vine-growers**.

3 They took him, and **beat him** and sent him away **empty-handed**.

4 Again he sent them another **slave,** and they **wounded him**
in the **head**, and treated him **shamefully.**

5 And he sent **another**, and that one they **killed**;
and *so with* many **others**, ***beating* some** and ***killing* others**.

6 He had **one more** *to send*, a **beloved son**; **he** sent him **last** *of all* to them,
saying, 'They will ***respect* my son.'**

7 But those **vine-growers** said to one another,
'This is the **heir;** come, let us **kill him**, and the **inheritance** will be **ours**!'

8 They took him, and **killed him** and threw him **out** of the **vineyard**.

9 ***What*** will the **owner** of the **vineyard** do? **He** will come and **destroy**
the **vine-growers**, and will ***give*** the **vineyard** to **others.**

[10] Have you not even read this **Scripture**:

'THE **STONE** WHICH THE **BUILDERS REJECTED**,
THIS BECAME THE **CHIEF CORNER *stone*;**

[11] THIS CAME ABOUT FROM **THE LORD**,
AND IT IS **MARVELOUS** IN OUR EYES'?"

[12] And **they (religious** leaders) were seeking to ***seize Him*,**
and *yet* they ***feared* the people**,
for they understood that **He** spoke the **parable** *against them*.
And *so* they **left Him** and went away.

Messiah's Strong Condemnation
of Israel's *Persecution* of her Prophets

[27] "***Woe*** to you, **scribes** and **Pharisees, hypocrites**!
For you are like **whitewashed tombs** which on the ***outside*** appear **beautiful**,
but ***inside*** they are full of **dead men's bones** and all **uncleanness.**

[28] So you, too, ***outwardly*** appear **righteous** to men,
but ***inwardly*** you are full of **hypocrisy** and **lawlessness**.

[29] "***Woe*** to you, **scribes** and **Pharisees, hypocrites**!
For you **build** the **tombs** of the **prophets**
and **adorn** the **monuments** of the **righteous,**

[30] and say, 'If **we** had been *living* in the days of **our fathers**,
we would **not** have been **partners** with **them**
in ***shedding*** the **blood** of the **prophets**.'

[31] So you **testify *against* yourselves**,
that you are **sons** of **those** who **murdered** the ***prophets***.

[32] **Fill up,** then, the **measure** *of the* ***guilt*** of your **fathers.**

[33] You **serpents**, you **brood of vipers**,
how will you **escape** the **sentence of hell?**

[34] "Therefore, behold, **I am sending** you **prophets** and **wise men** and **scribes**;
some of them you will **kill** and **crucify**, and some of them you
will **scourge** in your **synagogues**, and **persecute** from **city to city,**

[35] so that upon you may fall *the* ***guilt*** *of* all the **righteous blood** shed on **earth,**
from the **blood** of **righteous Abel** to the **blood of Zechariah**,
the son of **Berechiah,** whom **you murdered** between the **temple** and the **altar.**

[36] Truly **I say** to you, **all these things** will come upon *this* **generation.**
(Matthew 23:27-37)

Israel's History of ***Rejecting*** **God's Messengers** and **Prophets**

Ezra→ Furthermore, all the **officials** of the **priests** and the **people** were very **unfaithful** *following* all the **abominations** of the nations; and they **defiled** the **house** of **the LORD** which **He** had **sanctified** in **Jerusalem**.

The LORD, the **God** of their **fathers**, sent ***word*** to them **again** and **again** by **His messengers**, because **He** had ***compassion*** on **His people** and on **His dwelling place;**

but they *continually* **mocked** the **messengers** of **God** (listed below), **despised His words** and **scoffed** at **His prophets**, until the **wrath** of **the LORD** arose against **His people**, until there was **no remedy**. (II Chronicles 36:14-16)

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1. **Moses**: Although **not persecuted** in the same manner as later **prophets**, **Moses** faced significant **opposition** from the **Israelites** during their **journey** through the **wilderness.** The people frequently **grumbled** against him and **questioned** his **leadership**, as seen in **Exodus 17:3**: "But the people thirsted there for water, and they **grumbled** against **Moses,** saying, 'Why have you **brought us** out of **Egypt** to make us and our **children** and **livestock *die*** of **thirst**?'"

2. **Elijah**: **Elijah's** confrontation with **King Ahab** and **Queen Jezebel** is a notable example of **prophetic persecution**. Jezebel sought to **kill Elijah** after he **defeated** the prophets of **Baal** on **Mount Carmel**. In 1 Kings 19:2, Jezebel sends a **messenger** to **Elijah**, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if by this time tomorrow I do not make **your life** like the life of one of **them**."

3. **Isaiah**: Jewish tradition says that **Isaiah** was **killed** during the reign of **King Manasseh**, possibly by being ***sawn in two***. While the Bible does not directly describe this event, **Hebrews 11:37** mentions people who were **"sawn in two,"** which many believe refers to **prophets** like **Isaiah**.

4. **Jeremiah**: Known as the **"weeping prophet," Jeremiah endured** significant **persecution** for his **prophecies** against **Judah** and **Jerusalem**. He was **beaten**, put in **stocks** (Jeremiah 20:2), and later thrown into a **cistern** (Jeremiah 38:6). Despite his **suffering, Jeremiah** remained ***faithful*** to his **calling**, as seen in Jeremiah 20:9: "But if I say, 'I will **not mention Him** or speak any more in **His name**,' **His message** becomes **a fire** *burning* in my heart, shut up in **my bones**, and I become weary of **holding it in**, and I ***cannot*** **prevail**."

5. **Uriah**: The **prophet Uriah** is not as well known, but his story is just as powerful. In Jeremiah 26:20–23, **Uriah spoke** *against* **Jerusalem**, **warning** of coming **judgment**. His **message** was similar to Jeremiah's. King Jehoiakim did not like what he heard. **Uriah fled** to Egypt, hoping to escape. But the king **sent men** after him, brought him back, and had him **executed** with a **sword**. His body was thrown into a common grave.
6. **Zechariah**: The **son of Jehoiada** the **priest**, **Zechariah** was **stoned to death** by order of King Joash for his **prophetic rebuke**. 2 Chronicles 24:21 records this tragic event: "But they **conspired** against him, and by order of the king, they **stoned him** in the courtyard of the **house** of **the LORD**."

7. **Amos**: **Amos** faced **opposition** from **Amaziah**, the **priest** of **Bethel,** who accused him of conspiracy and sought to **expel him** from the land. Amos 7:12-13 recounts

Amaziah's words: "Then Amaziah said **to Amos, 'Go away**, you **seer**! Flee to the land of **Judah**. Earn your **bread** there and do your **prophesying** there, but ***never* prophesy** at **Bethel** again, because it is the king's **sanctuary** and the **temple** of the **kingdom.'"**

8. **John the Baptist**: As the **forerunner** of Messiah, **John the Baptist** was **imprisoned** and eventually **beheaded** by Herod Antipas for **condemning** Herod's **unlawful** marriage (Matthew 14:3-10).

9. **Jesus the Messiah**: **Jesus Himself** acknowledged the **persecution** of **prophets**, lamenting over **Jerusalem's history** of **violence** against **God's messengers**: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who **kills the prophets** and **stones** those sent to her!" (Matthew 23:37). **Jesus** faced **rejection** and **crucifixion,** *fulfilling* the pattern of **prophetic persecution**.

(Excerpts from **Bible Hub** (Topical Encyclopedia), **Persecution of the Prophet**)

Personal Application
Being a **Faithful *Spokesperson*** for **God**... it's **not** an **easy road**

Indeed, all who desire to **live godly** in **Messiah Jesus** will be **persecuted**.
(II Timothy 3:12)

And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell
of **Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah**, of **David** and Samuel and the **prophets**,

who by **faith** conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of* righteousness, obtained
promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire,
escaped the **edge** of the **sword**, from **weakness** were ***made strong***,
became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were **tortured**,
not accepting their **release,** so that they might obtain **a *better* resurrection**;

and others experienced **mockings** and **scourgings**,
yes, also **chains** and **imprisonment**.

They were **stoned**, they were **sawn in two**, they were **tempted**,
they were **put to death** with the **sword;** they went about in **sheepskins**,
in **goatskins**, being **destitute**, **afflicted, ill-treated**
(*men* of whom the **world** was **not worthy**),
wandering in **deserts** and **mountains** and caves and **holes** in the ground.

And all these, having **gained approval** through their **faith,**.. (Hebrews 11:32-40)