

Getting Started

1. What other movies have you enjoyed that had surprise endings? What was so surprising about the ending?
2. How do you deal with a topic that is uncomfortable for you to talk about?
3. How do you typically engage a viewpoint that is different from your own?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 127:

Q. What does the sixth petition mean?

A. "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one" means:

By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment.¹

And our sworn enemies—the devil,² the world,³ and our own flesh⁴—never stop attacking us.

And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle,⁵ but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.⁶

¹ Ps. 103:14-16; John 15:1-5 ² 2 Cor. 11:14; Eph. 6:10-13; 1 Pet. 5:8 ³ John 15:18-21 ⁴ Rom. 7:23; Gal. 5:17 ⁵ Matt. 10:19-20; 26:41; Mark 13:33; Rom. 5:3-5 ⁶ 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23

There have been a lot of bad things done in the name of the Lord. How do we differentiate from sin and the devil talking working in us and when the Lord is speaking to us?

6. Read Isaiah 5:1-7. Do you think Jesus used this passage as a base for his parable? Why might he have done that?
7. Read 2 Chron. 24:19; Jeremiah 20:2 and Nehemiah 9:26. How do these passages help us understand this parable?
8. Why is Psalm 118:22, 23 quoted by Jesus in this parable?

Application

9. At times we may not want to hear what God is saying. We may ignore the messenger, blame them or outright insult them. How can we open ourselves up to what God is telling us?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · October 15, 2017

Parables of Jesus

“Surprise Ending”

But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.

Mark 12:7&8

- **God does not always _____ in a way we would _____.**

- **It is easier to _____, _____, _____ or _____ the messenger than it is to actually think about what they are saying.**

Topics: Message from God, messenger, uncomfortable