



THE ABSENTEE LANDLORD

By Bill Pugh

Mark records the story as told by Jesus. A man planted a vineyard and leased it to tenants. He went abroad and did not check on their progress, trusting their stewardship.

At harvest time he sent servants to collect his share. Each in turn was murdered. Then he sent his only son to represent him. He too was killed.

When the crowd realised that he had told the parable against them, they wanted to arrest him.

But they feared a backlash from the

crowd. So they left him and dispersed.

There are several lessons in this story, but one is a standout for today.

God has entrusted us with care of the environment he shares with us.

He expects us to take care of it as faithful stewards. He is the absentee landlord. He expects us to share the products of our labours and resources with others, especially with those who have less. And the parable reminds us that, for our stewardship, we are accountable.

Reflection:

Read carefully the story in Mark 12:1-12. Can you suggest any ways we might be more faithful stewards of our personal and community resources?

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