

Virtual Lenten Study 2026
THE LAST SUPPER
Conversations That Led To The Cross by Will Willimon
February 11- March 18, 2026, Wednesdays, 6 pm – 7 pm
New Awakening UMC

Chapter 5 REFUSING THE HOST

SECTION 1: Faithful Servant - Luke 19:12–22

In this parable, Jesus describes a nobleman who entrusts his servants with money while he travels away to receive royal authority. The servants are instructed to use the resources they are given until the nobleman returns. Two servants faithfully invest in what they were given and produce increase, demonstrating trustworthiness and commitment to the master's mission. However, a third servant, motivated by fear and distrust, hides the money instead of using it productively. His inaction reveals a misunderstanding of the master's character and a refusal to participate in the responsibility entrusted to him. (Pgs. 83-94)

Scripture: Luke 19:12-22

12 So he said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return.

13 He summoned ten of his slaves, and gave them ten pounds, and said to them, "Do business with these until I come back.'

14 But the citizens of his country hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, "We do not want this man to rule over us.'

15 When he returned, having received royal power, he ordered these slaves, to whom he had given the money, to be summoned so that he might find out what they had gained by trading.

16 The first came forward and said, "Lord, your pound has made ten more pounds.'

17 He said to him, "Well done, good slave! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities.'

18 Then the second came, saying, "Lord, your pound has made five pounds.'

19 He said to him, "And you, rule over five cities.'

20 Then the other came, saying, "Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth,

21 for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'

22 He said to him, "I will judge you by your own words, you wicked slave! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow?"

Discussion Questions

What does this parable teach us about stewardship and responsibility in our relationship with God?

How might fear or misunderstanding of God's character prevent us from using the gifts God has given us?

In what ways are we called to "do business" for God's kingdom in our daily lives?

SECTION 2: Failure to Act - Luke 19:23–27

The nobleman confronts the servant who failed to act, pointing out that even the smallest effort would have been better than doing nothing. The servant's pound is taken away and given to the one who demonstrated faithful stewardship. The story reveals a challenging truth about the kingdom of God: faithfulness leads to greater responsibility and opportunity, while neglect leads to loss. The parable also highlights the consequences of rejecting rightful authority, symbolizing the rejection of Christ as king. Jesus warns that refusing God's rule is not a neutral decision, it carries spiritual consequences. (Pgs. 94-96)

Discussion Questions

What does this section reveal about God's expectations for faithfulness with what we have been given?

Why do you think the nobleman rewards those who already have more? What spiritual principle might Jesus be teaching?

How does rejecting God's authority show up in subtle ways in our lives today?

Scripture: - Luke 19:23–27

23 Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest.'

24 He said to the bystanders, "Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds.'

25 (And they said to him, "Lord, he has ten pounds!")

26 "I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

27 But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and slaughter them in my presence.' "

SECTION 3: The Wicked Tenants - Luke 20:9–19

Jesus tells another parable about a vineyard owner who leases his land to tenants. When the owner sends servants to collect his share of the harvest, the tenants beat and reject them. Finally, the owner sends his beloved son, hoping he will be respected, but the tenants kill him in an attempt to claim

the inheritance for themselves. This story symbolically recounts Israel's history of rejecting God's prophets and foreshadows the coming rejection and crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus concludes by quoting Psalm 118 about the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone, emphasizing that God's purposes will prevail even when people reject His chosen one. (Pgs.95-104)

Scripture: Luke 20:9-19

9 He began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country for a long time.

10 When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants in order that they might give him his share of the produce of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

11 Next he sent another slave; that one also they beat and insulted and sent away empty-handed.

12 And he sent still a third; this one also they wounded and threw out.

13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, "What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.'

14 But when the tenants saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, "This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance may be ours.'

15 So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?

16 He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Heaven forbid!"

17 But he looked at them and said, "What then does this text mean: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"?

18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

19 When the scribes and chief priests realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to lay hands on him at that very hour, but they feared the people.

Discussion Questions

How does this parable reflect the history of God sending prophets and messengers to His people?

What does the image of the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone teach us about Jesus' mission?

In what ways might people today still reject God's authority or message?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for Your Word and for the invitation You continue to extend to us. Help us to be faithful stewards of the gifts You have entrusted to us. As we leave this time of study and fellowship, strengthen us to be faithful stewards of the blessings You have placed in our hands. Give us courage to serve, wisdom to know Your will, and compassion to care for others in Your name. May our lives bear fruit, and may our actions bring glory to You. Guide us through the remainder of this Lenten journey. Draw us ever closer to Jesus, shaping us into people who welcome Your presence and respond to Your call with faith and obedience. We offer this prayer with grateful hearts, trusting in Your mercy, Your forgiveness, and Your everlasting love. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

NOTES

Topic: The Last Supper - Lenten Study 2026 - New Awakening UMC
Pastor Monica Jefferson - Facilitator
Time: Feb 11 – March 18, 2026, 6:00 PM Central Time
Every week on Wed, until Mar 18, 2026, 6 occurrence(s)

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