



OWN IT
PART TWO: THE FENCE

TOBY NEWNUM
Sept 23/24, 2017

MARK12.1

“Then He began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug out a pit for a winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and went away.

The fence is God’s

PROTECTION PLAN

When we live according to His

&

DIRECTION & DESIGN

we live within the protection of the vineyard

The fence is

BECAUSE GOD LOVES US

We can’t see the

ACCUMULATIVE DAMAGE

It’s always

A CHOICE

vision
TEACHING NOTES



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THE “DEAD MAN”

A favorite memory of mine is when my dad decided to fence in a large pasture and my brother and Grampa Sy helped. It took us weeks to do it.

It was a wet, beautiful spring season and the project was ambitious. It involved thousands of yards of barbed wire stretched and stapled across hundreds of fence posts quarter-split from sections of used telephone poles – over hills, through woods and swamps. Each post placed and hand-tamped tightly into augered holes.

I learned a lot from that project. Stretching barbed wire is dangerous because when it breaks it slings like a slinky right toward the anchor point (person). Also, there’s an old, old technique for anchoring the crucial corner post by burrying a “deadman” deep in the ground and wiring the post to it. We used chunks of railroad ties as our deadman anchor. When the stretched wire pulls hard against the cornerpost, the deadman gives it strength to not be torn out of the ground by the tension.

As years go by, the grass grows over the “deadman spot” and people may drive by and admire how straight and strong a fence line is but never know that the deadman is under the ground. It is forgotten and never seen. Yet without it, the fence would completely fail.

What a great reminder for us that in order for us to live in God’s grace, forgiveness and the protection of the fenced vineyard, His Son was killed and buried. This is something we never want to forget. We celebrate that He rose again, but don’t ever forget that our Father/Creator still had to watch Him get tortured, killed and buried for us.

No matter how many times we have hopped the fence, left the vineyard and tried living “out there” on our own, we can always return with sincerity and repentance. If we never even understood that God has a life plan for us, a vineyard where we can live in His protection, we can enter it anytime by believing and choosing to commit our life to Him.



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