

1 SLUMLORDS “GO WILD”

- Landlord and Tenants on Battle it Out!

2 NYC & Slumlords

- In New York City, living standards for apartments have become so bad that the city has launched a web site on Landlords, to crack down on the worst of the worst.
- With housing so scarce and affordable rent almost nonexistent, a good number of New Yorkers find themselves at the mercy of slumlords.
- Slumlords is a derogatory term for landlords, who attempt to maximize profit by minimizing spending on property maintenance.
- They do not have the best interest of their tenants and very often have no plans to protect the dignity, or safety of the facility for their renters.

3 NYC’s Worst Landlords

4 Nice Digs

5 Nice Digs

6 Nice Digs

7 Nice Digs

8 What to Expect

- Slumlords attract tenants by low rent—offering them below market rates for housing.
- However, as soon as the tenant moves in, they find . . .
 - Faucet that leak
 - Doors that stick
 - Evidence of water damage
 - Lackluster Heating and A/C units
 - Toilet that often back up, and
 - Rats, mice, and cockroaches

9 LA Slumlord

10 Landlords vs. Tenants

- Issues between landlords and tenants is nothing new.
- Deep in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus offers a parable between owner and tenants as well.
- However, in Jesus’ story it’s not the landlord who abuses his power and fails to care for those living on his land.
- No, it’s the tenants who take advantage of the landlord’s trust and generosity.

11 The Parable of the Tenants

- When Jesus gave this parable, it was during the last week of His ministry.
- Jesus had just cleansed the Temple and the Jews were questioning His authority.
- Instead of answering them outright, Jesus tells them two parables.

- The first one is about the Two Sons. One who says he'll obey and doesn't, and the other who disobeys but then changes his mind and does his father's will.
- The second one is called the Parable of the Tenants and describes the failure of the tenants to give the landlord the fruit of his vineyard.

12 The Message is Clear

- God is like a landlord who has leased his vineyard -- his kingdom -- to Israel as laborers.
- The time has come for God to demand fruit from his workers.
- He wants to see faith in his promises, repentance of sins and trust in his messengers.
- But rather than produce a measurable crop for the owner, the vineyard's residents have sat on their hands and have nothing to show him.
- As if that weren't bad enough, they've ignored his warnings of eviction and murdered every agent (prophet) he'd sent to represent his interests.

13 God is No Slumlord!

- “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.” (Matt 21:43 NIV)
- God is no nasty slumlord. Israel, however, was an unfaithful, unfruitful tenant.
- The time of eviction had come. The time for new tenants had arrived.
- However, these new tenants are not selected on the basis of one's ethnicity or the following of religious rituals (works), but through the sovereign move of God's Holy Spirit who seeks out those who are upright in heart.
- To them, God's elect—born of the Spirit and specially selected by God are given power to produce much fruit as they respond in faith to the preaching of God's word—the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

14 The Importance of Fruit

- John the Baptist
 - And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. (Matt 3:9–10 NIV)
 - Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. (Luke 3:8 NIV)
- Jesus
 - A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (Matt 7:18–19 NIV)

15 The Importance of Fruit

- The Purpose of God's Call
 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last (John 15:16 NIV).
 - “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5 NIV)
- How Do We Abide?
 - “If you remain in me and my words remain in you (John 15:7 NIV) . . . “
 - In other words, if we follow Jesus' words and life example on how to live, His power will work in us to produce much fruit.
 - However, this takes faith and understanding to the will of God!

16 God's Purposes

- For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph 2:10 NIV)
- For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14 NIV)

17 The Village Voice

- Recently, the Village Voice in New York turned the tables in the debate over terrible landlords.
- The paper ran an article noting that for every bad owner there are equally evil renters.
 - There are those who always need an extension on the extension on the extension of their rent.
 - There's the party guy who can't help but play his music loud.
 - There's the vandal who paints and puts holes in the walls and even does a bit of remodeling without permission.
 - Not to mention the disgusting dude whose into compulsive hoarding.
- There are slumlords, it argues. But just as prevalent are slum-tenants.

18 Spiritual Squatters

- Too many who call themselves Christians are in reality, "spiritual squatters" -- inhabiting a kingdom that isn't theirs and refusing to give God much of anything in return.
- It's an easy trap to fall into. Just ask the renters in Jesus' story.
 - When the owner seems to be an absentee -- off in another country or seated in heaven -- one begins to wrongly assume that he's never coming back for his property or he truly doesn't care for it.

- As a result, we live as though we can do what we want with it.
- But is this really a good idea?

19 Giving God Glory

- What kind of tenants are we?
- We have been entrusted with much. We are the new inhabitants of God's incredible vineyard.
- Life-giving wine should flow from our walls.
- When the harvest time approaches, he'll sent out his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. (Matt 21:34 NIV)
- So when God's messenger arrives at our front door, will we give him a hard time? or will we give Him glory?
- How to we give God glory? This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:8 NIV)

20 Application (Home Work)

- Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with . . .
 - compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Col 3:12 NIV)
 - Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
 - And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Col 3:13-14 NIV)
- If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:7 NIV)

21 Conclusion

- But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Pet 2:9 NIV)
- [Therefore] Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Pet 2:12 NIV)