

Isaiah 5**3-18-04*****“The Sad Song of the Vacant Vineyard!”*****1. Intro:**

1.1. We have in ch.5: A **Song**(1-7); a **Lament**(8-23); & **Judgment**(24-30).

2. A Sad Song of the Vacant Vineyard! (1-7)

2.1. **STINKY FRUIT!** (1-7)

2.2. (1,2a) **Typical Viticulture** – (His point?) Nothing was left undone to guarantee a sound crop.

2.2.1. **Now, I've had bad gardens that were my fault...but not here!**

2.2.2. **The Gardener**(God) – He cultivated(**dug it up**); cleared its stones; used top grade plants; he protected it(**tower**); he expected produce(**made a winepress**).

2.2.3. **The Land itself** – the soil was good(very fruitful); the drainage was good(hill/terraced).

2.2.4. **God was in it for long term produce!** – **watchtower**(not a temporary hut); **winepress**/or wine-vat [for storage of the crop](& cut into the rock for permanency).

2.3. (2b) – **Inedible Grapes!**

2.3.1. **Q: Ever sit down eating a bunch of grapes...& then hit that **one sour one**?**

2.3.2. **Wild**(*beushim*) – or **stinky** grapes!

2.3.3. **Q: Ever smell Jack Fruit or Durian?**

2.3.3.1. **Jack Fruit** - Greenish/brown large oblong fruit, spiky on the outside.

2.3.3.2. **Durian** is banned in many restaurants because of its offensive smell.

2.4. (7) **Q: What was the expected fruit?** [Justice & Righteousness!]

2.5. **The Vine as a symbol in Scripture:**

2.5.1. **Past Vine** – Israel. (Here; Ps.80:8-19)

2.5.2. **Present Vine** – Christ & His Church. (Jn.15)

2.5.3. **Future Vine** – “The vine of the earth”. (the corrupt world system of the last days that is destined for judgment)

- 2.5.3.1. Rev.14:14-16 **Packaged Grapes**(Harvested) vs. Rev.14:17-20 **Pressed Grapes**(winepress).
- 2.6. He has planted **US** in His vineyard for fruit! (Jn.15:1-8)
- 2.6.1. 1st to be a branch in the Vine we have to be united to Christ & share His life!
- 2.6.1.1. As we abide in Him His life flows through us & produces fruit.
- 2.6.1.2. The **Carnal Christian** can produce **works**, but only the **Spiritual Christian** can bear **lasting fruit!**
- 2.6.2. **Q: Are we abiding in the vine? What does that mean anyway?**
- 2.6.2.1. To have a living relationship w/the vine. To be in communion w/Him.
- 2.6.2.2. It **does not** mean to keep yourself saved!
- 2.6.2.3. I means to live in **His Word & Pray**(7); To **Obey his commandments**(10); to **keep our lives clean** through His Word(3,4);
- 2.6.3. **Q: Are we bearing fruit, more fruit, much fruit?**
- 2.6.4. It is difficult to determine our spiritual growth in this area. **Why?**
- 2.6.5. **[1] It is easier to measure externals than fruit** – Do we drink, cuss, gamble? (Isn't this the trap the Pharisees ran into?)¹
- 2.6.5.1. It's a lot easier to **stop cussing then to acquire the habit of godly patience!**
- 2.6.6. **[2] We are often preoccupied w/gifts** – We often like **gifts** more than **fruit** because they can be more readily seen/heard.
- 2.6.6.1. You may possess **gifts** yet still be **immature in spiritual progress.**
- 2.6.7. **[3] It sometimes seems unbelievers exhibit them better than Christians?** – Yet, **non-believers** can only exhibit these via their **human ability.**
- 2.6.7.1. Whereas **the Christian**, who is filled in the Spirit, has his/her life controlled by the Spirit.
- 2.6.8. **Remember, these are not superficial character adjustments that happen overnight!** (This is a life long process of sanctification)
- 2.6.8.1. **It is the reshaping of the innermost dispositions of the heart!**²
- 2.6.9. **Q: How about a quick Fruit Inspection?** {inspect yourself!}

¹ R.C.Sproul; Essentials; pg.245

² ibid; pg.246

- 2.6.9.1. **Ok**, Do you sense the **Saviors Love**?(9) Are you keeping His **commands**?(10) Do you experience **answered pray**?(7) Do you experience **joy**?(11)
- 2.7. **6 BAD GRAPES!** (8-23) – **6 Woe's!!!**
- 2.7.1. How frustrating to put so much work & energy into a garden & it only produce inedible fruit!
- 2.8. **1st Bad grape - Materialists!** (8-10)
- 2.8.1. The sin of ingratitude, taking their blessings for granted, & using them selfishly.
- 2.8.2. God's original intention was that each family's holding would remain in the family. (Property Greed was always condemned)
- 2.8.3. **At the heart of biblical faith there is always social concern!**
- 2.8.3.1. Around the world & thru the ages who made the leper colonies? Who has built the hospitals? Who has helped in developing written languages? The teaching of basic hygiene skills?
- 2.8.4. **Q: Are your financial decisions/investments based upon wise financial planning or greed?**
- 2.9. **2nd Bad grape - Drunkards!** (11,12)
- 2.9.1. Often time's intoxication can be whittled down to simply, 'one who enjoys "**Mindless Escapism**".'
- 2.9.1.1. Which is a stark contrast to "**Grim Reality**"!
- 2.10. (13-19) **God will have the last word!** (esp. vs.15,16)
- 2.11. **3rd Bad grape - Defiant!** (18,19)
- 2.11.1. Isaiah pictures people **harnessed to sin...like** animals harnessed to carts! (i.e. bondage!)
- 2.11.1.1. **They are living an animal existence!**
- 2.11.1.2. They defied the Lord by **blatantly indulging in sin as though** pulling their idol on a cart w/ropes!
- 2.11.2. This bondage is increasing – **note:** progression from thin **cords** to fat **cart rope**.
- 2.11.3. **Iniquity**(avohn) – the **inward** reality of sin in human nature.
- 2.11.4. **Sin**(Hattah) – the **specific ways** in which sin is actually committed.
- 2.11.5. **Q: Do you abhor sin or adore Him?** (18)

- 2.11.6. **Q: Do you reverence God or challenge Him?** (19)
- 2.12. **4th Bad grape – Moral Perversity!** (20)
- 2.12.1. Reversing moral values!
2.12.1.1. “The ultimate blasphemy is to call good evil & evil good.”³
- 2.12.2. **The moral code** has been written...but now, **personal taste** now rules supreme!
2.12.2.1. **Q:** What’s wrong with in a society the idea that, “as long as it feels right for you go for it”?
- 2.12.2.2. **Problem:** Society will take it farther & farther. (so take it to its logical conclusion)
- 2.12.2.3. **Society** = the totality of social relationships among human beings. (comes from a word meaning fellowship/ companion)
- 2.12.2.4. We of course are watching today as our culture tries to **redefine** marriage. {We took it to its logical conclusion last week/why not any 2 people? Or 6 people? Or individual?}
- 2.12.3. **Q:** Are moral values seen as **objective absolutes** or as **subjective preferences**?
- 2.13. **5th Bad grape – Self-Sufficiency!** (21)
- 2.13.1. Recognizing no authority but themselves.
2.13.2. They were “**Know it alls!**”
- 2.14. **6th Bad grape – Drunken Leaders!** (22,23)
- 2.14.1. Wow, what a standard by which to measure worth! (22)
2.14.1.1. **Can he hold his liquor? - Can he mix a good one?**
- 2.14.2. **Q:** What excites **admiration** in human achievement?
- 2.14.3. Working the system for self-advantage. (23)
- 2.14.4. **Q:** Does the **social system** guarantee the **punishment of guilt & the vindication of innocence**?
- 2.15. **ROTTEN TO THE CORE!** (24,25)
- 2.16. **“Therefore”** marks their resultant judgment because of their innumerable sins.

³ Philip Hacking; Isaiah; pg.31

- 2.17. They had invited God to hurry/bring it on God!(19). Well, their downfall will be like **fire** racing through **straw**. (like burning a dry X-mas tree!)
- 2.18. (25) Divine Rage! – He is the Irresistible Invader!
 2.18.1. **Today** His hands are outstretched in love inviting sinners to **repent**. But **tomorrow**, he will stretch them out in **wrath**.
- 2.19. **THE FLAG IS UP!** (26-30)
- 2.20. The Lord simply raises his **flag**, & gives a little **whistle**.
- 2.20.1. **Banner/Standard/Ensign/Flag** - The practice of using banners, or standards, was widespread in ancient times in many cultures and lands. [Israel probably borrowed the custom from her neighbors]
- 2.20.1.1. The banner was used as a **rallying point** for groups with a common interest, such as a call for an army to assemble, or as a signal that a battle was to begin.
- 2.20.1.2. Numb.10:14-28 – **Judah, Reuben, Ephraim, Dan** were picked to carry a standard(These 4 tribes each had 2 tribes under them)[then **each tribe** had their **unique emblem**]
- 2.20.1.3. Numb.2:2 - "Everyone of the children of Israel shall camp by his own **standard**, beside the **emblems** of his father's house;"
- 2.20.2. We can fall under more than one banner/flag! (American/Christian flag!)
- 2.20.2.1. We can pledge our allegiance to more than one.
- 2.20.2.2. I Pledge Allegiance to **the flag of the United States of America** and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- 2.20.2.3. I pledge allegiance to the **Christian Flag** and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.
- 2.20.2.4. I pledge allegiance to **the Bible**, God's Holy Word, I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.
- 2.20.3. **Q: What banners do you fall under? Q: If you designed a banner for your family what would you put on it?(Family Crest) Q: Are there any banners you shouldn't be falling under? (i.e. embarrassing banners!)**

2.21. (28) You want swift...I'll show you swift!