

## THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOLINESS

### Chapter 5 Lesson 1

**Chapter's Subject: Parable of the Vineyard Isa. 5**

**Main Point: Moral Vineyard (Isa. 5:1-7)**

**Today's Study: Moral Vineyard Part 1 (Isa. 5:1-4)**

1. Synopsis of Isa. 5:1-7
2. Favorable Conditions Isa. 5:1, 2
3. Fruits were Disappointing Isa. 5:2
4. Facing God's Grand Jury Isa. 5:3
5. Facts of God's Provision Isa. 5:4

**Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.**

### The Parable of the Vineyard

#### Introduction

*As noted in the main study, The Righteous Pursues Holiness, it was necessary to present this study separately because of the volume of material involved. "The Parable of the Vineyard" was briefly introduced in Chapter 3 Lesson 2.*

If we live obedient lives, dutifully doing what we must do, **it will result in fruits, to the glory of God.** Some believers are still confused as to what it means to bear fruits and as a result I am repeating this brief explanation.

To bear fruits mean:

1. To bear **Converts** (Rom. 1:13)
2. To bear **Righteousness** (Rom. 6:20-22; Phil. 1:11)
3. To bear **Christian Character** or **Fruit of the Spirit** (Gal.5:22-23)

If we do not bear fruit we will wither, die and be removed (Luke 13:1-9, NB Vv. 6-9; John 15:2); if we do not bring forth good fruit we will experience similar consequence (Matt. 3:10; 7:19).

Since God has done everything necessary for us to be productive, He expects us to bear fruits (**John 15:1-11**, 15:16; Rom. 7:4; Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:10)

It is our duty to be fruitful and it was this thought that lingered on my mind for days when God impressed on my heart Isaiah 5. Originally, I intended to present an outline of Isaiah 5 with limited comments but God led otherwise and what is presented in these two lessons covers only the first seven verses of Isaiah 5. This volume of material came though much praying and research which led to the need to present it as an accompanying study. To God be the glory and it is my prayer that this presentation will be of great blessing to you and many others.

**ISAIAH 5 ... CHAPTER'S HIGHLIGHTS**

1. **Several titles have been given to this chapter, for example:**
  - (a) The Song of the Vineyard
  - (b) Israel Compared to a Vineyard
  - (c) Etc.
  - (d) The title I am using: **"The Parable of the Vineyard."**
2. For the chapter (Isa. 5), I am noting three main divisions:
  - (a) Moral Vineyard Vv. 1-7
  - (b) Missing the Mark Vv. 8-23
  - (c) Miserable Consequences Vv. 24-30

**DETAILED OUTLINE Isaiah 5****A. Moral Vineyard Isa. 5:1-7**

1. **Favorable Conditions Vv. 1-2**
  - (a) Beloved v. 1
  - (b) Best and Bountiful Provision Vv. 1,2
    - (1) They got the best land v. 1
    - (2) Thorough preparation
      - He fenced it v. 2
      - He gathered out the stones v. 2
      - He planted the choicest vine (very best vine) v. 2
      - God built a watch tower to protect His vineyard
      - Finally, the Lord built a winepress, expecting a rich harvest of the finest grapes v. 2
2. **Fruits were Disappointing v. 2**
  - (a) God's expectations were high v. 2
  - (b) God expected the vine to produce what the vine ought to produce ... grapes v. 2
  - (c) The vines did produce!! They produce "wild grapes" v. 2
  - (d) "Wild grapes" ... these were hard and sour (bitter) grapes also referred to as "stinking fruit"
  - (e) Spiritual significance
3. **Facing God's Grand Jury v. 3**
  - (a) God has a way of convincing sinners to admit out of their own mouth v.3
  - (b) God, the divine Husbandman, makes an appeal v. 3
4. **Facts of God's Provision v. 4**
  - (a) God continues to appeal to His people v. 4
  - (b) God asked Israel: "What more could I do?" v. 4
  - (c) What more could He do for us to live a holy, happy life?
5. **Formal Finding (Divine Verdict) Vv. 5-6**

- (a) Decision v. 5a
- (b) Distinguished Status Lost v. 5b
- (c) Devoured v. 5c
- (d) Defense Removed v. 5d
- (e) Downtrodden v. 5e
- (f) Desolation v. 6a
- (g) Deteriorate v. 6b
- (h) Depravity v. 6c
- (i) Drought v. 6d

#### 6. Frustrated Expectations v. 7

- (a) The Parable Explained v. 7
  - (1) The People
  - (2) The Product
  - (3) The Paschal Lamb
- (b) PROBLEM: God's frustration with man's rebellion (a few Scriptural examples noted)
- (c) Presenting Yourself Before God

### B. Missing the Mark Isa. 5:8-23

*Here we have the "wild grapes" identified and obviously the Jews were enjoying such pernicious way of living!! In this section we will observe that God condemned six sins among His people (the Vineyard ... Israel v.7).*

#### 1. Individualism Vv. 8-10

Exploitation of others, as these individuals had only their personal interest at heart. It was a rat race and only the mighty, the rich and the powerful survived!!

This occurred because covetousness, greediness of worldly wealth; getting what they lusted after, no matter who gets hurt ... *(a quick illustration: King Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard ... 1 Kings 21)*. This sin would be punished by famine (Isa. 5:10).

#### 2. Intoxication Vv. 11, 12, 22

This is simply referring to drunkenness; getting high one way or the other. It is such a sad situation to see professing Christians not only getting intoxicated but actually going to worship services heavily under the control of alcohol or some other form of drugs (cocaine, marijuana, etc.). Talking about having the Spirit of God, beloved we have some contrary spirits professing to be serving and worshipping God such is only to their embarrassment and doom unless they repent and be cleansed (Acts 19:13-19). This issue of intoxication is such a problem in some congregations that there are church members (at least professed Christians) who the law has compelled to get help at some drug rehabilitation center because of their repeated

offenses and there are some still not known, at least so it seems (God loves these individuals but not their habitual way of sinning).

We do need to restore a weak or fallen member (Gal. 6:1), but the line need to be drawn as to who publicly represents the Church, this is important to the interest of kingdom building. There is a need for us to understand that something is wrong when a professed believer **habitually** (note the word “**habitually**”) sin (see 1 John 3, NB Vv. 3-12 ... this I have emphasized through these studies and will do so as often as necessary, such is our responsibility, helping others as we look heaven-ward).

As it relates to our text (Isa. 5:11, 12, 22), because of their (Israel) rioting, reveling, and drunkenness, Israel would be punished with captivity and all the miseries that are associated with such experience (Vv. 13-17).

### 3. Iniquity Enjoyed Vv. 18, 19

They took pride in their sins. A detailed study is needed but for now I call your attention to what is being done openly, where people are no longer ashamed of sin (whether it is publicly known or covered up) and this is true even within the Church (Universal). **This type of attitude of being shameless despite the atrocity is seen in Gal. 5:19-21; note carefully the word “lasciviousness”, which means unbridled sensuality; there is no restrain, no shame, etc.** Drunkenness (Intoxication) mentioned above also falls in this category.

### 4. Ignoring Morality/Immorality Embraced v. 20

For Israel it was an awful situation to be in, especially when they had so much in place to guide them in the way of living righteously. Today there is confusion as to what are moral standards; this is a situation created by those who twist and thwart the truth to suit their own destructive goals. You have heard such terms as “no absolute truth”, “politically correct”, “liberal Christians”, etc. and these are accepted and delighted in only because there are those who love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil (John 3:19).

Even more prevalent today, we have seen the host of darkness doing everything to confound and bring confusion between virtue and vice, completely ignoring the principles and practice of holiness and true righteousness.

### 5. Introverts v. 21

Generally, we think an introvert is limited to a “shy person”. The word also means: “a person characterized by concern primarily with his or her own thoughts and feelings.”

When the detailed study is done, we will be focusing on the second definition noted above. You will also observe that these individuals are not only selfish but also conceited (see Isa. 5:21 and Rom. 12:16; Gal. 6:3).

6. **Injustice v. 23** (For context note Vv. 22-25)

Its quiet obvious that the Jews perverted justice and we see the same thing in today's world and in the Church (Universal). Very clearly seen is the fact of favoritism for the selected few, but I will not go deeper at this time.

As seen in Isa. 5, due to the perversion of justice, the prevalence and dominance of wickedness among the Jews, a great and general desolation would be experienced and would lay all to waste, as seen in the final section of this chapter (Isa. 5:24-30)

I am calling your attention to Isa. 5:13-17, noting that a time of accountability would be experienced!! Because of their sins, God punished Israel (Northern Kingdom) with destruction by the Assyrians 722BC (Isa. 5:25-30). A similar fate awaited Judah (Southern Kingdom) if they did not turn from their sins (they also went into captivity ... Babylon in 586 BC 2 Kings 24, 25; etc.).

**C. Miserable Consequences Isa. 5:24-30**

1. **Holy One Rejected v. 24**

When we reject the Word of God, or His genuine servants, we are rejecting God (for example see 1 Samuel 8, NB Vv. 6-9; Judges 10, NB Vv. 10-16)

The consequences of rejecting God always come with doom and destruction (Prov. 1:24-33); the account of the Prodigal Boy can also be considered, God be praised for his (The Prodigal Boy) reawakening, return and restoration (Luke 15:11-32). If you have strayed away or drifting away, Oh Beloved!! Come home!! Come home to Jesus!!

2. **Hand of God v. 25**

What a fearful thing to fall in the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31). God is angry with wickedness, the Word says, He is angry with the wicked every day (Psa. 7:11). Living in sin, wallowing in the mud and mess of immorality is wickedness in the sight of God (Gen. 6:5-7).

Sin is sin, whether the act is classified as minor or major; whether it was done in the dark, seemingly for you (see Psa. 94:7-11; Luke 12:2) or it was endorsed by political leaders, or religious leaders, or glamorized by celebrities, etc. Sin is wickedness, outright rebellion against the known will of God. Oh that the wicked would forsake his ways and the unrighteous his thought ... and return to God (Isa. 55:7).

As we have observed in Isa. 5, the Jewish nation was warned that they would be judged for their sins.

(a) **Isa. 5:25 (Note the last sentence:**

(1) **KJV:** “For all this his anger is not turned away but his hand is stretched out still.”

(2) **Amplified Bible:** “For all this, His anger is not turned away but His hand is stretched out [in judgment].”

(b) Note the usage of this statement also in Isa. 9:12, 17; Deut. 2:15; 1 Sam. 5:6; etc.

3. **Hostile Nation Summoned Vv. 26-27**

God is able to raise up opposition against His people; this is seen throughout the Old Testament. When the Jews rebelled God allowed the enemy to invade; when they repented God raised up a deliverer (this is clearly seen in the Book of Judges).

God is able to raise up and destroy any nation, no matter how mighty they may feel or seems to be (today we glory about world power, but power belongs to God!! ... Psa. 62:11; 93, NB v. 4) Nebuchadnezzar learnt several lessons from the work and power of God of which one example is that God is above all and can humble the mightiest and most powerful because He is God and above Him there is no other (Daniel 2, 3, an 4 ; note Chapter 4:37).

The mighty, powerful, Jewish nation struck fear in the hearts of other nations (for example read Joshua 2, NB Vv. 8-11). When King Solomon was established, his fame and grandeur was known throughout the nations (1 Kings 10, NB Vv. 6-9). Yet because Israel produced “bad fruits”, “wild grapes” the nation was laid waste (Isa. 5:5-6)

God has no need to beat drums or create any excitement in order to raise up an army. He simply stir their hearts wherever they are (Joel 2:1-11) and mobilize them into action (see also Judges 3:12; 1 Kings 11, NB Vv. 14-22, 23-26; Je. 5, NB v. 15; etc.).

4. **Heartless/Hurting Enemy Vv. 27-30**

*Partial quote from Barnes Notes*

The condition of the army that would be summoned to destroy Judea:

- (a) It would be composed of bold, vigorous and courageous men.
- (b) They would be unwearied by long and painful journeys.
- (c) They would be fierce and violent.
- (d) They would come fully prepared for conquest.
- (e) Etc.

It’s just amazing to see how high and lofty men get they feel mighty and indispensable, as if there is none like them, striking fear in the hearts of many, living as though they are the Almighty and above all; they do so because they rely on

carnal security. They scorn and reject the Word of God, etc. but an awful time is coming for those who refuse to turn from their wicked ways and seek God while the gate is still ajar. **Read the Book of Revelation and note Chapter 9:6. Oh, yes, a great day is coming!! Are you ready!!**

### **SYNOPSIS OF ISAIAH 5:1-7**

#### **Compilations Based on Two Sources**

*These two accounts are presented because both contain important information that present informative introduction to Isaiah Chapter 5.*

#### **A. First: Based on Sermon Writer Commentary**

*This is a direct quote except for the captions.*

##### **Song**

The prophet may have sung this song at the weeklong harvest festival known as the feast of the Tabernacles (Lev. 23:33-44), where singing would have fit naturally into the festive atmosphere and would have caught the attention of the crowds. The song then asks them to serve as judges, thereby drawing them in further (Vv. 3-4). The verse, though, has a barbed hook. The listeners learn to their surprise that the song is not really about a vineyard but instead is about them – their sins – the judgment that has been pronounced on them.

##### **Similar Account**

In this, the song is like the story of the rich man and the poor man told by Nathan the prophet to King David (2 Sam. 12). When Nathan told David the story, David didn't realize that he was listening to a parable. He thought that Nathan was presenting an injustice which he, as king, had power to remedy. It was only after David rendered judgment on the rich man that Nathan said, "You are the man," revealing David's liaison (*liaison: affair; illicit sexual relationship . . . insert mine*) with Bathsheba and his treachery at having Uriah killed. Isaiah's song follows the same format – a story that draws the people in, invites them to pronounce judgment, and then reveals that the story is not about someone else, but is about them.

##### **Shift by Stages**

The mood of the song shift by stages. It begins on a joyful note as it tells about the person who developed the vineyard (Vv. 1-2). It darkens slightly as it asks listeners to judge whether the owner did all that needed to be done (Vv. 3-4). It then takes on a threatening tone as the owner of the vineyard reveals his decision to destroy the vineyard. Finally, it reveals the listeners to be the vineyard (v. 7).

The poem, like a musical overture, introduces us to themes that the prophet will develop more fully as he shares his vision.

**B. Second: Based on Matthew Henry Concise Commentary ... Compilation**

1. Jesus Christ is God's beloved and our beloved Savior.
2. Israel was God's chosen people and His care over them is described by the management of a vineyard.
  - (a) Similarly to the situation with Israel, the advantages of our situation will be eventually brought into account.
  - (b) The vineyard was planted with the choicest vines.
    - (1) God gave them the most excellent law system.
    - (2) He instituted ordinances.
  - (c) They had the Temple, the central phase of their life which was a tower where God gave tokens of His presence.
  - (d) He set up His altar to which the sacrifices would be brought; this signifies all the means of grace.
3. **God expects fruits from those that enjoy privileges.**
  - (a) Good purposes and good beginnings are good but not good enough.
    - (1) What has been invested must be utilized, maintained and produce to the glory of God.
    - (2) There must be vineyard fruits; thoughts and affections, words and actions, all agreeable to the Spirit.
  - (b) Unfortunately, the vineyard brought forth, bad fruit!!
    - (1) Wild grapes are the fruits of the corrupt nature.
    - (2) **The reality is, "Where grace does not work, corruption will."**
    - (3) Wild grapes are hypocritical performances in religion, that look like grapes but in reality they are useless.
4. The wickedness of those that profess religion and enjoy the means of grace, will reap the consequences!!
  - (a) They shall no longer be a peculiar people.
  - (b) When errors and vice go without check or control, the vineyard is un-pruned; then it will soon be grown over with thorns.
  - (c) This is shown by the departure of God's Spirit from those who have long striven against Him and the removal of His gospel from places which have long been a reproach to it.
    - (1) Samson (Judges 16:19-21)
    - (2) King Saul (1 Sam. 16:14)
    - (3) Israel (1 Sam. 4, NB Vv.19-22; Acts 7:42)
    - (4) Those who consistently reject the Word of God.(Amos 8, NB Vv. 11-12)
5. A brief explanation of the parable Isaiah 5.
  - (a) It is sad with a soul, when, instead of grapes of humility, meekness, love, patience and contempt of the world, for which God looks, there are wild grapes of pride, carnal passion, discontent, malice and contempt of God; instead of the grapes of praying and praising, there is the wild grapes of cursing and swearing.
  - (b) **Let us bring forth fruit with patience, that in the end we may obtain everlasting life.**



**MORAL VINEYARD PART 1 ISAIAH 5:1-4****A. Favorable Situation Isa. 5:1-2****1. "Beloved" v. 1**

**Isa. 5:1 KJV:** "Now I will sing to my well **beloved** a song of my beloved touching his vineyard."

The song begins in the voice of the prophet, who speaks of God as his beloved or his friend. What seems to be the beginning of a love song quickly becomes a song about a vineyard.

- (a) Isaiah's "beloved" refers to God the Father
  - (1) Isaiah speaks of God the Father, Jehovah (Yahweh), whom he loved with all his heart (Deut 6:5).
  - (2) The word "beloved" carries high levels of intimacy and love is basic to the identity of God (1 John 4, NB Vv. 7-21)
- (b) "Beloved" is also applicable to Jesus Christ
  - (1) He is the "Beloved Son" (Matt. 3:17; 12:18; 17:5)
  - (2) He is called the beloved of His people (Songs of Sol. 2:9, 10)
  - (3) He is the beloved Savior of the world (John 3:17; 4:42)
- (c) The owner of the vineyard is God, He is the Husbandman
  - (1) In general, the Greek for "husbandman" (John 15:1) means land worker or farmer,
  - (2) Some translations: vinedresser or gardener
  - (3) The world is His (Ex. 19:5; **Psa. 24:1**; 50:10; Hag, 2:8)
- (d) The vineyard referred to in Isa. 5 is Israel (see Isa. 5:7)
  - (1) They were God's chosen people (Deut. 7:6; 14:2)
  - (2) Christians are chosen people based on their faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9, 10; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Eph. 1:4; James 2:5; **1 Peter 2:9, 10**)
  - (3) The reality is that all souls are God's ... He is the Divine Owner of everyone (Ezek 18:4; Rom. 14:8)
  - (4) In essence believers are God's covenant people in Jesus Christ
    - **Matt. 26:28 Amplified Bible:** "For this is my blood of the new covenant, which [ratifies the agreement and] is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. [Exod. 24:6-8]"
    - See also 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 12:24
- (5) We are His covenant people and He loves us!!

**The song: "O How He Loves You and Me" (Kurt Kaiser)**

First Verse:

Oh, how He loves you and me  
 Oh, how He loves you and me  
 He gave His life  
 What more could He give  
 Oh, how He loves you  
 Oh, how He loves me  
 Oh, how He loves you and me

## 2. Best and Bountiful Provision Vv. 1-2

The Owner (Husbandman) of the vineyard made an excellent start in the work of establishing the vineyard. His giving was free, gracious, and generous, He was very careful and went to the extreme, **making sure that the vineyard had every opportunity to produce the highest quality fruit.** The Husbandman displayed care, commitment, sacrifices and gave His all, His very best effort for growth and development. This backbreaking work involved five important steps.

### (a) They got the very best land Isa. 5:1

#### (1) Isa. 5:1c Amplified Bible

“... My greatly Beloved had a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. [Songs of Sol. 6:3; Matt. 21:33-40]”

(2) God chose a very fertile hill for His vineyard, a hill that had the richest soil, and sat high above the surrounding land and where the sun will beam down on the hillside. It is an ideal location.

(3) God gave His very best for the redemption of man (John 3:16; 4:10: etc.) ensuring him of eternal life (1 John 5:13) and all that comes with the “salvation package” (John 10:10; 1 Cor. 2:9; etc.)

- God has placed us on an eminence (distinction, esteem, great loftiness, etc.) of blessings . . . we are the sons and daughters of the Living God!! (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6).
  - Eminence **not for** self-glory nor for self-exaltation but that we may witness conspicuously to His goodness.
  - See Psa. 50:23; Heb. 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9; etc.
- There are many references that authenticate the assurance of God’s blessings, for example: Psa. 34:8; 84:11; 107:1; Je. 29:11; John 10:10b; James 1:17; etc.

### (b) Thorough Preparation Isa. 5:2

#### (1) He fenced it (Isa. 5:2)

- This is a sign of **ownership**; He is the Husbandman, He is the sole owner (Ex. 19:5; Lev. 25:23; Psa. 24:1).
  - We do not fence in what is not ours.
  - Israel was His (Ex. 19:5, 6; Deut. 7:7-8; 14:2); we (the Church) are His people (ph. 1:14; James 2:5; 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9)
    - We are His temple (His sanctuary) (1 Cor. 3:16, 17)
    - The Holy Spirit lives within us (1 Cor. 6:19)
- Fencing also speaks of:
  - **Separation**
    - That’s who we (ought to be) ... “a separated people” (John 15:19; 2 Co. 6:17)
    - That distinction must be maintained (Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 6:5; 2 Tim. 3:5)

- See also Chapter 2 Lessons 1 and 2 of the main study (The Righteous Pursues Holiness)
- **Protection**  
*Many references ... three examples noted with limited comments:*
  - **Psalm 27**  
This passionate and spirited psalm declares the sure faith of one who has been tested in the agony of life. Note the affirmation of faith and the guaranteed victory of his security in God.
  - **Psalm 91**  
This psalm speaks of **security** that the people of God may find in Him. Note these four figures used: **secret place, shadow, refuge and fortress.**
  - **Psalm 125**  
Here we have an affirmation of faith in the security of the righteous (Vv. 1-3); including a prayer for them (v. 4) and a warning for the wicked (v. 5).
  - We can all lean on the “Everlasting Arms” and experience guaranteed security from all alarms.
- **Boundaries**
  - This speaks of confinements; reminding us that we need to stay within the white lines. We are all travelling on the “straight and barrow way” (Matt. 7:13-14).
  - We live in obedience to the will of God (note Rom. 1:1-7, NB v. 5; see also Deut. 26:16; 1 Sam. 15:22; Matt. 7:21; etc.)
  - Beloved, as pilgrims we travel the “highway of holiness” on which only the genuinely righteous can travel (Isa. 35:8).
  - Because of who we are in Jesus Christ and our eternal hope, we know the imperativeness of pure lives (1 John 3:3); we stay within our boundaries; such is our duty, our moral obligation.
- There is a lot more that can be stated in regards to “**Fenced In**” but we do need to move on. I do call your attention to the following brief statements:
  - The very first thing done for the vineyard (which is actually the norm) is to have it fenced: surrounded, protected!! Glory to God!!
  - Likewise, God didn’t deliver us from the onslaughts of the enemy and left us exposed and vulnerable to Satan’s tyranny!! He has surrounded us by His holy angels and His abiding presence (Gen. 28:15; Isa.43:2). He is within, surrounds us and promises to be with us always (Matt. 28:20)!! We need to maintain God’s presence

continuously; we are not only to be cleansed from sins but remain under God's control (Luke 11:14-26). We must keep walking in the light of His Word. Living according to His will ensures His abiding presence and ultimate protection.

- It is sad to see so many who continue to abuse the grace of God. You may want to review Chapter 2 Lessons 1, 2, and 3, the main study "The Righteous Pursues Holiness, where we discussed the abuse of God's grace. We need to stay within our boundaries or like the Prodigal Boy (Luke 15:11-32) will be controlled by the lust of the flesh which, if not forsaken, we will be removed from God's safety zone (Judges 16:20; 1 Sam. 16:14; 28:6; 2 Chron. 30:7; etc.).

## (2) He gathered out the stones (Isa. 5:2)

**Amplified Bible:** "... and He dug and trenched the ground and gathered out the stones from it ..."

- The Husbandman cultivated (prepare and use for crops) and removes all stones from the land so nothing would obstruct the growth of the vines.
- Stones in the soil means a shallow soil; a shallow heart!! You will see some excitement yes!! Emotion yes!! But despite it all it is shallow soil!! There is absolutely no depth because the stones are in place (see Matt. 13: 1-9, 18-30, NB Vv. 5-6 and 20-21).
- What a miracle God wrought with our stony hearts that was hardened and made callous by sin!!
  - God did promise to take away the stony heart, the infected nature (Ezek. 11:19-20; 36:25-27; etc.)
  - Another great truth is, while we no longer go about with the Word of God engraved on two tablets of stones it is in our hearts (Psa. 119:9-16; Rom 10:8; Col. 3:16; 2Cor 3:3; Heb. 8:10; 10:16)
- In regards to the Jews, as noted in Isa. 5 (and other references)... note:
  - God did **everything** He could to prepare the Promise Land for Israel (Gen. 12:1-9; Ex. 23:23-33; Deut. 31:20; etc.)
  - As long as they were faithful to Him, they would live in peace and lead a victorious, happy, joyful and holy life that produces choicest fruits (Deut. 28:1-14; Isa. 61:10, 11; Jer. 15:16; Gal. 5:22-23).

## (3) He planted the choicest (very best) vine in His vineyard (Isa. 5:2)

- The Church (Universal) is unique; there is no religion like it!! It's founder is the True and Living God, the Creator (Matt. 16:13-19; John 1:1-14; Rev. 1:8-20, NB Vv. 8, 11, 17-20; etc.). All other religions are manmade and has no guarantee of eternal life or the deliverance necessary because of man's transgressions, no matter how popular those religions may be ... none can be compared to the True and Living God (Ex. 15:11; Psa. 135:15-21; etc.).

- Christians are unique, they are of Christ and remain a special people, called out to be God’s ambassadors (2 Cor. 2:20). In a very special way we are like a dam holding back the consuming waters that will come with rippling current which will produce fear and destruction (see the Book of Revelations for example chapters 6, 7, etc.). It will be catastrophic when the Church (Universal) is raptured (1 Thess. 4:1-18; Luke 17:28, 29); the removal of the dam will result in turbulent waters flowing, bringing the wrath of God on a disobedient and rebellious world (you are encouraged to read the Book of Revelation and observe the sequence and certainty of the eminent judgment that will be experienced).
- The uniqueness of the Church must be emphasized, maintained, protected and passed on to all succeeding generations until Christ’s second coming!!
  - The Church consists of those who have experienced the “new birth” also referred to as “born again” (John 3:3-8). Another term used in reference to the “new birth” is “regeneration” which means the quickening and giving of **new life** to man’s morally depraved nature that was dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1, 15).
  - As noted so many times in these lessons, the “new birth” is mandatory (John 3:1-21; etc.), which is obtained by faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30; 4:12; John 1:12; 1 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 10:9-10; etc.)
  - The believer also needs to be sanctified (discussed in details throughout the main study). This is a purging experience; purging from the pollution of sin (2 Cor. 7:1; Rom. 6:6-7; John 17:6-9, 15, 17; etc.). As a reminder, three things are experienced when sanctified:
    - Separation from the world unto God.
    - Purging from the pollution of sin.
    - Crucifying of the carnal nature.
  - There is also the need to be baptized in (with) the Holy Spirit, equipping us for service, enabling us to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ and living a victorious life. Baptism in the Holy Spirit **must** be preceded by sanctification and sanctification must be preceded by the new birth (Mark 1:7, 8; Acts 1:4-8; etc.) If we are going to be fruitful, these experiences are compulsory and possible.
- **Israel ... was God’s vineyard (Isa. 5:7)**
  - God gave them His Word (Read Exodus Leviticus, Deuteronomy, etc.)
  - His law and His commandments were to govern their lives.
  - His law would enable the people to build a just society.,
- **The Church ... we need to feed on the Word, it is our food, our nourishment, that which enriches our lives to the glory of God (Deut. 8:3; Jer. 15:16).**

- Jesus at that crucial moment being tempted by the adversary, made it abundantly clear the importance of the Word:

**Matt. 4:4 KJV**

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”  
(*This was a quote from Deut 8:3*)

- The Psalmist placed great emphasis on the Word, for example Psalm 119

**Example note verse 103**

“How sweet are thy word unto my taste! Yea sweeter than honey to my mouth.”

- The prophets were aware of the impending judgment of God because of Israel’s continued disobedience. However, listen to part of Jeremiah’s prayer as he expresses his delight in the Word of God.

**Jer. 15:16 Amplified Bible**

“Your words were found, and I ate them; and Your words became a joy to me and the delight of my heat; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord of host.”

- The Word of God is nourishment for the believer ...

**1 Peter 2:2 Amplified Bible**

“Like newborn babies [you should] long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may be nurtured and grow in respect to salvation [its ultimate fulfillment].”

- The Church (Universal) is not only blessed with the “Written Word” (the Holy Bible), and the “Spoken Word” (delivered by God’s servants) but we also have the glorious opportunity of a personal relationship with the “Living Word” (also referred to as the “Logos” ... the “Logos” is Jesus Christ, who was and is and forever will be (John 1:1-14; 1 John 1:1-3; Rev. 19:13).

- **Indeed God has given us His very best!! (John 3:16; 4:10; Rom. 8:2; etc.)**

**2 Cor. 9:15 Amplified Bible Classic Edition**

“Now thanks be to God for His Gift, [precious] beyond telling [His indescribable, inexpressible free Gift]!”

**(4) God built a watchtower to protect His field (Isa. 5:2)**

**KJV:** “... and built a tower in the midst of it.”

**NLT:** “... In the middle he built a watchtower ...”

- The tower was built to overlook the entire vineyard as an observation post.
- Note also, it was built “in the midst” or “the middle of the vineyard.”
- This probable referred to the Temple and there are some very important and interesting things to be noted, for example:

- On their pilgrimage to Canaan from Egypt, when the Jews camped the **Tabernacle** was pitched in **the middle** the of camp (Numbers 2; NB v. 17)
  - The **Temples** which replaced the Tabernacle, were **the center of worship and national identity among ancient Israel (Jewish nation)**. The Temple was central part of their (Israel's) lives. It was a center from which the fruits of righteousness and joyful worship might issue.
  - The Temple symbolized God's very own dwelling among the people.
  - It was the presence of God that protected them. I have made frequent reference in regards to the importance of being in and remaining in the very presence of God; for example one of my favorite references is Ex.33, NB Vv. 12-17.
- Oh! May we strive daily to live worthy lives conducive of the presence of God which will enable us to be what He wants us to be and experience the abundant life in Him! Look again at Ex. 33:14, 17.
 

**Ex. 33:17 Amplified Bible Classic Edition**  
 "And the Lord said to Moses, I will do this thing also that you have asked, for you have found favor, loving-kindness and mercy in my sight and I know you personally by name. [Rev. 2:17]"
- I will summarize our emphasis on having God in the **center** of our lives by using "The Circle" which is one of my favorite illustrations. Here I will note three things about the circle as it relates to God being in control of our lives.
  - **The Circumference**: Jesus Christ must be the circumference or our lives, in that He ought to surround our lives with His divine presence. "All around! Yes, He is all around us!!" **We are "fenced in" by Him!!** (See Deut. 32:1-14, NB Vv. 10-11; Psa. 32:7; 34:7; **125:2**; 139:5; Zech. 2:5; etc.)
  - **The Contents**: Here I am referring to ALL that is within the circle (our lives) must be to the honor and glory of God. Among the many references applicable, see for example Matt. 19:16-22. Beloved, Jesus must be "Lord of all or not Lord at all" (Phil. 3:8).
  - **The Center**: Jesus must be the central part of our lives; He must be our all in all and everything must revolve around Him!! **He must have the preeminence in everything!!** A holy life is best described as Christlike; it is a God centered, God orchestrated, God controlled life!! We must honestly ask: "Is Christ genuinely the center of my life?" Beloved, I am not advocating for lip service but practical, daily living; where God is the essence of our all as we pursue holiness and true righteousness (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:7-40; Mark 12:28-31; Matt. 6:33; 1 Peter 1:15-16; etc.)

- This we have seen before and briefly mentioned again as a reminder that the presence of God guarantees not only our needs supplied (Phil. 4:19); but we are guaranteed safety, security, etc. just as He was a “pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire” (Ex. 13:21, 22) ensuring His continuous watch and care for Israel, even so today it is a requirement for all His people (Psa. 121). Someone has rightly stated, “Safe and secure from all alarm” because of His abiding presence (Psa. 91). He is with us beloved, and as I have always reminded my children, “You go with God and He will go with you.” Definitely, “all other ground is sinking sand!!” **Let God remain in full control!!**

(5) **Finally, the Lord (Husbandman) builds a wine press, expecting a rich harvest of finest grapes. (Isa. 5:2)**

**NKJV:** “And also made a wine press in it; ...”

**ESV:** “... and hewed out a wine vat in it; ...”

**Amplified Bible:** “... and hewed out a winepress in it.”

- **Harvest is expected.**
  - Farmers do not plant crops just to be impressive.
  - Such is a natural way of life, if we sow, we expect to reap.
- As with all farmers, God waits expectantly (and patiently) for fruitful development and production (two years at a minimum for a new vineyard). As we have seen, everything possible was done to ensure a very good harvest!! The expectations were great and the Husbandman looked towards a great harvest.
- God didn't bless us only for us to hoard our blessings and sit by in idleness but for us to be fruitful in His service.
  - See for example, **The Parable of the Talents** (Matt. 25:14-30)
    - How many believers with great talents but they remain buried instead of being used to the glory of God in kingdom building.
    - Note carefully Matt. 25:18, 24-30
  - Another parable of similar nature but with some differences is: **The Parable of the Pounds**” (Luke 19:11-27)
    - Note the importance of utilizing our all to the glory of God:
 

**Luke 19:23 (NKJV)**  
“Why then did you not put **my money** in the bank, that at **my coming I might collect it with interest?”**
    - Observe what was expected: **Luke 19:13**  
**NKJV:**  
“So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them **‘Do business till I come.’**”  
**Amplified Bible**  
“Calling ten of his [own] bond servants, he gave them ten minas [each equal to about one hundred days of wages or nearly twenty



dollars] and said to them, ‘**Buy and sell with these while I go and return.**’”

- Note the challenge to make use of all opportunity to the glory of God still exist today!!

**Eph. 5:16 Amplified Bible**

“Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity] because the days are evil.”

- The winepress was built (Isa. 5:2) because The Husbandman expected a great harvest. **The divine expectation carries the sense of eager anticipation and is emphasized by repetition (see Isa. 5:2, 4, 7). The harvest expected represents the fruitful life God expects of His people**
- **Isa. 5:7 Amplified Bible**  
“For the vineyard of the Lord of host is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant planting [the plant of His delight]. And He **looked** for justice, but behold [He saw] oppression and bloodshed; [**He looked**] **for** righteousness (for uprightness and right standing with God), but behold, [He heard] a cry [of oppression and distress]!”
- The emphasis on **the believer’s fruitful life** has been discussed extensively in the main study (The Righteous Pursues Holiness).
  - Note again John 15:1-8
  - See discussion on “Desirable Results” . . . the main study Chapter 3 Lesson 2 pages 21-31
- **Note also the following pointers on “Spiritual Life” (Briefly noted)**
  - **Produces in All Periods of Life**  
Psa. 92:13, 14
  - **They are Long-lasting (Perennial)**  
Ezek. 47:12
  - **Grow only on Good Ground or Good Hearts**  
Matt. 13:8, 23
  - **Produced in a Spirit-Filled... Spirit Guided Life**  
Gal. 5:22-23
  - **Without Defect**  
Eph. 5:9
  - **The Product of Heavenly Wisdom**  
Jams 3:17

## GOD EXPECTS FRUITS!! IS YOUR LIFE A FRUITFUL ONE?!!

### *A Brief Review... of the “Husbandman’s Diligent Effort” Isa. 5:1-2*

1. He acquired the best land (v.1)

2. He thoroughly prepared and put in place ALL that was possible for a productive vineyard.
  - (a) He fenced it (v. 2)
  - (b) He gathered out the stones (v. 2)
  - (c) He planted the choicest (very best) vine in His vineyard (v. 2)
  - (d) He built a watchtower to protect His field (v. 2)
  - (e) He built a winepress, expecting a rich harvest of the finest grapes (v. 2)

**The second verse of “Oh How He Loves You and Me”**

Jesus to Calvary did go,  
 His love for sinners to show  
 What He did there  
 Brought hope from despair.  
 Oh, how He loves you;  
 Oh, how He loves me; . . . . Oh how He loves you and me.

The Chapter’s subject is: “Parable of the Vineyard” (Isa. 5)

The Main Point for the chapter is: “Moral Vineyard

Our first sub-point is: “Favorable Situation” (Isa. 5:1-2)

We will continue in verse 2 discussing: Fruits were Disappointing (v. 2)

**B. Fruits were Disappointing Isa. 5:2**

**KJV:** “... and he looked that it should bring forth grapes and it brought forth wild gapes.”

**NKJV:** “... So He expected it to bring forth good gapes, But it brought forth wild gapes.”

1. God’s expectations were high, and He had a just cause for such expectations.
  - (a) God expects vineyard-fruits from those that enjoy vineyard-privileges; and He is not only expecting to see only leaves as in Mark 11:12-14.
  - (b) **Simply professing, no matter how appealing to the human eyes, is not sufficient, there must be more than a great display; there must be more than buds and blossoms; there must be fruits.**
  - (c) Many started in the Spirit and ended up in the flesh (Gal. 3:1-3). Good purposes and good beginnings are commendable but not good enough:
    - (1) There must be fruits.
    - (2) There must be a good harvest and a good life.
    - (3) There must be love without dissimulation.
    - (4) There must be genuine peace with all men.
    - (5) There must be unity and genuine fellowship.
    - (6) There must be an absence of discord, discontent and the presence of genuine caring for each other, we weep when others weep, rejoice when they rejoice, lift up the fallen in love and compassion.
    - (7) There must be dedication, devotion, discipline, dying to the carnal nature and determination to live a Christlike life.

(8) **There must be maintained focus on being committed to a life of obedience in pursuit of holy living?**

2. God expected the vine to produce what vines produce . . . **“gapes!!”**
  - (a) Fruitfulness brings honor to God and man (Judges 9:1).
  - (b) God’s expectations are neither too high nor unjustifiable, they are righteous and reasonable.
  - (c) Despite all the compromise within the Church (Universal), God’s standard of living for His people is still a holy life (Lev. 11:45-46; 1 Peter 1:15-16)
3. **The vines did produce fruits (Isa. 5:2)**
  - (a) They brought forth wild grapes!!
  - (b) The Lord’s disappointment was very much evident . . .
    - (1) The Lord had done everything possible to make sure His vineyard (Israel) produced the finest grapes for the choicest wine. The best lifestyle that would attract the heathen nations to the True and Living God!!
    - (2) When the Lord looked for a crop of good grapes, He found wild gapes (v. 2)
4. **Wild grapes ...** these were small, hard, sour and bitter.
  - (a) We can also describe them as wild bitter fruit or bad fruit.
  - (b) The term **wild gapes** actually mean **stinking grapes**.
5. Spiritual Significance
  - (a) **The wild grapes speak of the fruit of corrupt nature.**
    - (1) Fruits that are contrary and inconsistent with the engrafted branch
      - The engrafted branch is **in Christ** (John 15:2)
      - To be fruitful we must remain **in Christ** (John 15:4, 7)
      - You may want to acquaint yourself with the significance of the “Golden Candlestick”, specially noting the connection of the six branches, how they are fed, etc. (Ex. 25:31-40; etc.)
    - (2) In reference to “wild gapes,” Matthew Henry referred to them as fruits of the “crab stick.” To help with such definition (“*crab stick*”), you may want to think on the following two examples:
      - “Crab apple”: This is a small wild sour apple.
      - “Crab Grass”: This is a weedy grass which no one wants in a well kept lawn.
      - The “wild gapes” were both disappointing and were of no value!
    - (3) Caution is needed by every believer; there are traits that are inconsistent with a righteous life although ignored by some religious leaders and denominations. These inconsistencies spring from the roots of bitterness (Example see Heb 12:14-17)

**Heb. 12:15 Amplified Bible**  
 “Exercise foresight and be on watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God’s grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and cause trouble and bitter torment, and many become contaminated and defile by it.”

**(4) The fact remains, beloved, where grace does not work, corruption will!!**

- You will observe in Ezek. 47:1-12, that the same “Healing Waters” that brought forth dramatic healing and producing an abundance of fruits, etc. had no effect on the swamp lands (v. 11).
- God must be in total control, His Word must govern our lives. Let’s remember that our righteousness is of Jesus Christ; we are clothed **in His righteousness** (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:4; 6:11-17; etc.)
- Oh! May we allow God to have full control, to have the preeminence, that He will have His way at all times in our lives and in all areas!! He will be Lord of all or He will not be Lord at all!!

**(b) The wild grapes, are a show piece of the flesh, lacking sincerity****(1) Matthew Henry states:**

Wild grapes are hypocritical performances in religion that look like grapes, but are sour or bitter and are so far from pleasing to God; they are provoking, as mentioned in chapter 1, NB Vv. 11-15 (*Isa. 1*). Counterfeit grace is wild grapes.

**(2) The Scribes and Pharisees had the external features of being pious, entirely committed to God, but they were outright hypocrites and inwardly corrupted (Matt. 23, NB Vv. 25-27)****(3) Matt. 5:20 NKJV**

“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

- 6.** We can summarize by noting that the wild grapes are typical of the deeds of injustice and iniquity which are produced from a corrupted nature; Isaiah enumerates on these in Isa. 5:8-23. I am urged to repeat that one of the three acts that occur when we are sanctified is the “crucifying of the carnal nature.” There is victory **in Jesus Christ our Redeemer!!**

Sub-Points Discussed:**Favorable Conditions Isa. 5:1-2****Fruits were Disappointing Isa. 5:2****C. Facing God’s Grand Jury Isa. 5:3****Isa. 5:3 NKJV**

“And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, please, between Me and My vineyard.”

1. God has a way of convincing sinners out of their own mouths.
  - (a) Here (Isa. 5:3) He asked them (Israel) to judge the situation.
    - (1) Who is to be held accountable for this result of wild grapes?
    - (2) The case is plainly stated:
 

“And now, you people of Jerusalem and Judah, you judge between me and my vineyard.” (NLT)

- (3) The ball was in their court; the challenge was for them to determine what went wrong.
- (b) **The Husbandman, through the prophet's song invites the listeners to judge who is in the wrong – the owner (Husbandman ...God) or the vineyard (Israel).**
- (1) Many of those in the audience would have cared for vineyards and could render an expert opinion.
- (2) The more experienced they are, the more they would sympathize with the owner, and from experience they would know the frustration of a vineyard producing grapes unfit for making good wine.
- (c) Ever since "The Fall" (Gen. 3), man continues to deny his responsibility for his actions, he blames someone else or makes vain excuses. We could make a comprehensive listing of vain excuses, I have briefly noted three:
- (1) By **Adam** for eating the forbidden fruit despite God's instructions (Gen. 3:12)
- (2) By **Aaron** for making the golden calf (Ex. 32:24)
- (3) By **King Saul:**
- For usurping the function of a priest (1 Sam. 13:12)
  - For keeping the forbidden spoil (1 Sam. 15:21)
2. God the divine Husbandman makes an appeal (Isa. 5:3)
- (a) Berkley (*Irish Bishop 1685-1753*) translates as: "Please arbitrate between Me and My vineyard."
- (b) The appeal was made because of the injustice and right actions He (the Husbandman) was about to make.
- (c) God makes a similar appeal in Micah 6:3.
- (d) Punishment was inevitable and they need to see the justice of it (Isa. 5:6, 7).
- (1) What He was about to do they would do the same to any vineyard that was as carefully prepared and produced as in this situation.
- (2) See also Isa. 1:18; Matt. 21:40-43; etc.)
3. We could expand on this topic, "Facing God's Grand Jury," by discussing various situations, for example individuals who were actually summoned by God to give an account of their deeds.
- (a) A few examples are: Adam and Eve, Cain, Gehazi, Achan, David, Annias and Sapphira, etc.
- (b) I have made reference before to the song "There is a Great Day Coming"; I will quote the first verse:
- Verse 1
- There is a great day coming by and by  
 A great day coming;  
 There's a great day coming by and by,  
 When the saints and sinners  
 Shall be parted right and left,  
 Are you ready for that day to come?
- (c) **The good news is, all sins can be judged now instead of at the "White Throne Judgment" (Rev. 20:11-15).** God is ready and willing to forgive all who seek Him

(Isa. 55, NB Vv. 6, 7). See also Psa. 103:3; 130:4; Acts 5:31; 1:38; Eph.1:7; 1 John 1:9).

Sub-Points Discussed

**Favorable Conditions Isa. 5:1-2**

**Fruits were Disappointing Isa. 5:2**

**Facing God's Grand Jury Isa. 5:3**

**D. Facts of God's Provision Isa. 5:4**

**Isa. 5:4 NKJV**

"What more could I have done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?"

1. God continues to appeal to His people. Here in verse 4 He asked two questions:
  - (a) What more could He have done for His vineyard?
  - (b) Why would a vineyard so well cared for yield wild grapes?
    - (1) These are not exaggerated (rhetorical) questions or questions-shaped accusations but genuine consequences (see Vv. 5, 6)
      - What more might have been done? (2 Chron. 36:15; Micah 6:; Hosea 6:4)
      - Why did this happen? (Jer. 2:29-32; 8:4-7)
    - (2) It must be remembered that there was an all out divine effort in the development of this project. Nothing was spared, only the very best was put in place, in order to have the best result.
      - God's best seems to have revealed only the peoples worst (2 Kings 17:13-29; 2 Chron. 36:15-16).
2. **God's question to Israel: "What more could I do?"**
  - (a) They had everything requisite for instruction and direction, in their duty, for quickening them to what was required of them.
  - (b) Everything necessary, were available to them for a productive life to the glory of God.
    - (1) No incentive was lacking to perform as was necessary.
    - (2) They had evidence, undeniable proof that was used as a motivating factor to work to their hope or fear.
    - (3) The fact must be faced by them because God had done everything to make them holy and happy.
    - (4) They had all the opportunities they could desire for the performance of their duty:
      - Among all other nations they (Israel), God had chosen them to be His own.
      - They had new moons and the Sabbath, and the solemn feasts.
      - They had the Scriptures, the lively oracles, a standing ministry in the priests, and Levites, besides what was extra ordinary in the prophets.

- He defended them, fighting their battles; He was the banner over them, the Elshaddai (The Almighty God, the great God who brings blessings and comfort to His people . . . **“The Almighty One” Ex. 6:2-6**).

(c) **What more could be done?**

(1) The wonderful works of God among Israel is very much obvious in the

Scriptures. Rea:

- The Pentateuch (First Five Books)
- The Historical Books
- The Poetic Books
- The Prophetic Books

(2) The Poetic Books? Yes indeed! God’s loving care, His provisions and protection, His wondrous works, His mercy, etc.; are very much evident in the Poetic Books, for example see Psalm 105, 106, etc.

(3) Definitely, The New Testament reveals that God did come among His own although they did not receive Him (John 1, NB Vv 10-11, etc.).

3. **What more could God do for us to live holy and happy?**

*We could make an extensive listing of all that God has done for us, but for now the following will be sufficient.*

- (a) The Deliverer from sin, the Messiah, was promised Gen. 3:15 ... other Messianic prophecies: Psa. 68:18; Jer. 23:5; Zech. 3:8: etc.
- (b) That promise of the coming Messiah was fulfilled Luke 2:8-20, 26, NB Vv. 10-11
- (c) That long awaited, sought after mystery has now been revealed to us Col. 1:26; also Eph. 3:1-13, NB Vv. 3, 4, 9; 5:32; 6:19
- (d) Yes, beloved!! In times past God spoke by the prophets, now He speaks to us by His Son Heb. 1:1-2; Gal. 4:3-5.
- (e) The Messiah, the Deliverer, healer, etc. has come to bring healing (Isa. 61; Luke 4:18-19).
- (f) This victory means deliverance from the tyrant, from the dominion of sin Matt. 1:21; John 8:36.
- (g) He paid the price to redeem lost man, bound for eternal hell Isa. 53:6. He suffered, was killed, buried but rose triumphantly (conquering death, hell and Satan) 1 Cor. 15:1-4; etc.
- (h) Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, is God’s very best, He was given so that everyone who trusts in Him can experience eternal life John 3:16; 1 John 5:12, 13; etc.
- (i) He is our High Priest, who understands, sympathizes and cares about all our experiences (Heb. 4, NB Vv. 14-16; etc.) and He makes intercession for us Heb. 7:25-28.
- (j) Through Him, we can boldly access the throne of grace anytime and anywhere, with the assurance of His help Heb. 4:16.
- (k) He sent us His Holy Spirit, our Comforter, Advocate, Teacher, etc. He enables us (anoint us) to be effective witnesses (John 14:15-17; 16:1-16; acts 1:8; etc.); He dwells (abides, lives) in us Ezek. 36:27; John 14:17; 1 John 2:27; etc.

- (l) In Christ we have a hope that of which we are not ashamed, it is a blessed hope (Titus 2:1; 1 Pete 1:3). This hope is also a motivating factor for us to pursue purity of life 1 John 3:3.
  - (m) Jesus Christ is our righteousness, we are clothed **in Him** (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:1; Gal. 2:20; etc.); we are created anew in righteousness and true holiness Eph. 4, NB v. 24.
  - (n) Many are the challenges on our pilgrim journey but **through Christ** we are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37); that is why we must **abide in Him** (John 15:1-8). Remember, we can persevere only as we are preserved and we are preserved **ONLY in Christ (Jude 1.)**
  - (o) Etc.
  - (p) **He's All I Need**  
*The chorus:*  
 He's all I need  
 He's all I need  
 He's my everything  
 He's all I need
4. This thought on "What else could be done?" can be extended in so many areas of our everyday lives. I will briefly list three examples:
- (a) **The Family**
    - (1) Some spouse have gone above and beyond making sacrificial efforts in the interest of maintaining a happy, harmonious and holy marriage only to experience a disgruntle, complaining, critical, conceited, etc. attitudes and actions of their spouse.
    - (2) Some parents have spared no means of support, displayed loyal dedication, love, etc. for the good of their children but as we have seen in so many situations some of these children live lives that are destructive, discouraging, degrading, etc.
    - (3) Some children despite their humility, submissiveness, respect, etc. have in return received harsh, bitter treatment, lack of genuine love, etc. and as a result many are ruined.
  - (b) **The Church (Universal)**  
 Unfortunately and sad to note, in some situations the callous, criticizing, condemning, etc. attitudes and actions are experienced within the church; and this happens no matter the sacrifice, sincerity, etc. efforts and diligence made and lived practically to the glory of God. Seems as if someone is always there to quickly criticize and condemn, although these individuals either do nothing, or they give mediocre service, or what they do is in the interest of self.
  - (c) **Our Secular Jobs**  
 Most of us know what it means to give our very best and beyond as it relates to our secular jobs but instead of appreciation, there is an attitude of jealousy,



undermining, false accusation accompanied with false witnesses, all built up against us for our termination or to withhold promotions.

- (d) There are many other situations where the very best has been done only to have others responding as if nothing worthwhile was done. However, in situations like these we must live so that when our good is evil spoken of, our lives will confound the evil reports (1 Peter 3:13-17).

No matter how negative may be your experience even when we have been sincere and have given our very best by the grace of God, what is important is that our lives portray the true and living God and glorify Him; we need to do all to His glory!! (Matt. 5:16; Eph. 6:6-8; Heb. 12:28)

5. As seen in our text **Isa. 5:1-7**, **God** did everything possible for Israel although they produced unfavorable, worthless fruits. **Similarly, God has provided all that we need spiritually and temporarily.**

- (a) Someone said: "If God does nothing else for me, saving my soul is enough to praise Him for the rest of my life and for eternity." I strongly agree with him!!

- (b) An old favorite song says:  
 When I think of the goodness of Jesus  
 And all He's done for me  
 My soul cry out Hallelujah  
 Thank God for saving me

Jesus saved me, Jesus changed me  
 Washed me in the cleansing blood of the Lamb  
 Jesus filled me, sanctified me  
 Right now I am free from sin  
 To the utmost Jesus saves  
 To the utmost Jesus saves

- (c) Another hymns that speaks volume is: "Count Your Blessings,"

*The Refrain*

Count your blessings; name them one by one  
 Count your blessings; see what God hath done  
 Count your blessing; name them one by one  
 Count your blessing; see what God has done

- (d) **God has given us His VERY BEST!!**

- (1) Allow me to once more make a partial quote from the hymn: "Oh How He Loves You and Me."

Oh, how He loves you and me,  
 Oh, how He loves you and me,

He gave His life,  
 What more could He give?  
 Oh, how He loves you;  
 Oh how He loves me;  
 Oh, how He loves you and me.

(2) **Some quotes**

- **Franklin Graham:**

“There is not a single thing that Jesus cannot change, control and conquer because He is the living Lord.”

- **Rick Warren:**

Trusting God completely means having faith that He knows what is best for our life. You expect Him to keep His promises, help you with problems, and do the impossible when necessary.”

- **Charles Stanley:**

“God knows what you need. He knows what is best for you – including in what quantity. The fact is, we can live with very little, but we can never truly live without God. He is what we need first, foremost, and always. He is the only one whom we truly can’t do without.”

- **Source Unknown:**

“Trusting in God’s plan for our live and that His goodness will be evident in very circumstances is essential in our lives. We navigate a harsh world where more often than not, doing good does not prevail. By trusting Him, it is easier to see His goodness in both the big and small things, which enriches our lives every day.”

- **Godtube .com**

“From the beginning of time, it has been said that God is good. He is good to us in so many ways. God loves us unconditionally and is always listening to our thoughts and prayers. He keeps us from harm. God’s goodness to us is visible on a daily basis, in both the big and little things in our lives.

6. **God has given us His very best likewise we must give our best.**

*The hymn: “Give of Your Best to the Master*

**First Verse**

Give of the best to the Master;  
 Give of the strength of your youth;  
 Throw your soul’s fresh, glowing ardor  
 Into the battle for truth.  
 Jesus has set the example,  
 Dauntless was He, young and brave;  
 Give Him you loyal devotion  
 Give Him the best that you have.

**Refrain**

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give of the strength of your youth;  
Clad in salvation's full armor,  
Join in the battle for truth

**2 Tim. 2:15**

**Amplified Bible**

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.”

## Chapter 5 Lesson 1 Review Questions

1. What consequences are likely to be experienced when believers do not bear fruits or produces bad fruits, give references?

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2. List six sins of Israel noted in our lesson, as observed in Isa. 5 (Note their respected verses).

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3. Briefly explain the following sins, noted in Isa. 5 (a) Individualism (Vv. 8-10) (b) Intoxication Vv. 11-12, 22 (c) Iniquity Enjoyed (Vv. 18-19).

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4. As seen in Isa. 5, how would the perversion of justice and disobedience be punished (Vv. 22-25)

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5. In Isa. 5:26-30, list at least five things that would characterize the invading army allowed to invade Israel because of their continued sinning.

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6. The Isaiah's account in chapter 5 is referred to as a song; why was this "song" naturally fitting at the time it was presented (*at the time Isa. 5 was written*)?

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7. Which other account in the Old Testament is similar in nature as the song in Isaiah 5? In both situations the matter presented was about the audience of whom the song was rendered not someone else.

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8. Briefly explain this statement: "Good purposes and good beginnings are good but not good enough." (Note in our lesson)

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9. What will happen to those who **habitually** enjoy unrighteousness and profess to be children of God; give Scriptural references?

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10. Complete the following:

“It is sad with a soul, when, (a) \_\_\_\_\_ of grapes of humility, (b) \_\_\_\_\_, love, patience and (c) \_\_\_\_\_ for the world, for which (d) \_\_\_\_\_ looks; there are wild grapes of pride, carnal passion, (e) \_\_\_\_\_, malice and contempt of God; instead of the gapes of (f) \_\_\_\_\_ and (g) \_\_\_\_\_ there is wild gapes of cursing and swearing.”

11. As discussed in our lesson, how can the word “beloved” (Isa. 5:1) be applied?

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12. In Isa. 5 (a) who is he “Husbandman”? (b) Who does the vineyard: referred to? Briefly explain their functions.

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13. In regards to the location of the vineyard (Isa. 5:1c), what note worthy features are observed and how are these applicable to our salvation?

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14. Make a listing of the areas of preparation made by the Husbandman (Isa. 5:2) (*No explanation necessary at this time*).

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15. In regards to the “fencing” of the vineyard, four outstanding factors were noted in our lesson, briefly explain each.

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16. In regards to removing the stones from the vineyard (Isa. 5:2) (a) why was this necessary? (b) What significant spiritual lesson is taught in this act?

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17. In Isa. 5:2; note that a tower was built in the middle of the vineyard; what are some significant lessons related to this fact?

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18. Complete the following:

“God didn’t (a) \_\_\_\_\_ us only for us to (b) \_\_\_\_\_ our  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_ and sit by in (d) \_\_\_\_\_ but for us to  
be (e) \_\_\_\_\_ in His service.

19. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“The harvest expected represents the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of His people.”

- (a) formalism and externalism displayed
- (b) freedom to make choices
- (c) fruitful life God expects
- (d) pretense, self-glory and self-exaltation

20. What spiritual significance is noted in reference to “wild grapes”?

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21. Briefly explain the following statement:

“The wild grapes is a show piece of the flesh, lacking sincerity.”

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22. Briefly explain the challenge God gave to Israel as seen in Isa. 5:3.

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23. (a) In Isa. 5:4, what two questions are asked? (b) Briefly explain the significance of both questions.

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**We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.**