

God's Unfruitful Vineyard

Read Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 13:6-9

In Isaiah 5:1-2, the prophet is “singing” God’s story about His vineyard. He draws a similar picture to the one in Psalm 80 above. God’s people are His vineyard:

- He transplanted the choicest vine (v.2b).
- He chose the most fertile ground (v.1b).
- He thoroughly, laboriously cleared the land (v.2a).
- He did all the digging and building to give His vineyard a wall and tower to protect it and a wine vat to press its fruit (v.2).

God did everything right. He spared no labor and expense in order to reap the very best fruit. He waited patiently until the time was right. But when the vineyard should have been fruitful, what did it yield? Worthless grapes, completely unfit for the vineyard owner’s purpose (vv.2, 4).

So in vv.3-6, God questions His vineyard, His people:

- What more could I have done to make you fruitful? (v.4a)
- Why did you yield only bad fruit? (v.4b)

In the case of His people, what fruit was God wanting (v.7)? What did He hope to get for all His efforts? He wanted people who would live justice, who would treat God and other people right. What fruit did He get? Nothing but bloodshed and oppression.

What do farmers, gardeners, or vineyard owners do when their efforts don’t yield the desired fruit? Read Luke 13:6-9. They cut down the plant and invest in something else. In the case of a vineyard, they stop taking care of it. They simply let it go back to nature. Why waste valuable resources if good fruit will not grow?

When God stops taking care of His people, they are left to the ravages of need and plunder. That’s exactly what happened - to the northern kingdom of Israel around 722 B.C., at the hands of the Assyrians, and to the southern kingdom of Judah about 586 B.C., when the Babylonians destroyed the land and carried off its people.

But as we will see, that isn’t the final chapter in the story of God’s vineyard.

God still seeks fruit from our lives, the fruits of love and holiness. It’s good to ask ourselves periodically:

- Are there any areas of my life that are not bearing good fruit?
- How could I invest my life in more fruitful ways?

Listen & Sing: [Fruitful in You](#) (from [LNWhymns.com](#))

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