

"The Vineyard, the Verdict, and the Vine"

Pastor Jason West | November 1, 2026

I. Consider the Gardener's _____

Isaiah 5:1 "Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill."

Isaiah 5:2a "He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it"

Isaiah 5:7a "For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting"

Psalm 80:8 "You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it."

Romans 2:4 "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

II. Examine the Vineyard's _____

Isaiah 5:2b "and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes."

A. Fruit That _____ His Heart

Isaiah 5:7b "and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!"

B. Fruit that Reflects His _____

Isaiah 1:17 "learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."

Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

III. Trade Your Excuses for _____

Isaiah 5:3 "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard."

Isaiah 5:4 "What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?"

IV. Heed the Owner's _____

Isaiah 5:5 "And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down."

Isaiah 5:6 "I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it."

Deuteronomy 28:23-24 "And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. The Lord will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed."

John 9:1-3 "As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.'"

V. Abide in the True Vine

Isaiah 27:2-3 "In that day, 'A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! I, the Lord, am its keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day"

Isaiah 27:6 "In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit."

Matthew 21:33 "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country."

Matthew 21:37-39 "Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him."

Isaiah 53:5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser."

A. You Are the_____ : Abide in Him

B. He Is the Gardener: Put Down the _____

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BACKGROUND:

Much like Jesus' Parable of the Wicked Tenants (*Matthew 21:33-46*), Isaiah records a song that serves as a parable to the people of Judah. The farmer represents the Lord, the vineyard represents Israel, and the vines represent God's people. Through the image of a carefully prepared vineyard, God illustrates His relationship with Israel and exposes the nation's spiritual failure despite His abundant blessings. The song begins like a love ballad but ends in judgment. The tragedy is not that God failed His people, but that His people failed to reflect His character. The central message of this passage is that God graciously provides everything we need to flourish; therefore, He expects us to bear fruit characterized by righteousness, faithfulness, and justice.

DIGGING DEEPER:

God is a loving and attentive gardener. He clears the fertile soil of our hearts, preparing it for growth. He watches over us as our tower of protection, surrounds us with His care, and provides everything necessary for spiritual fruitfulness. Just as He supplied rain for the vineyard, He pours out His goodness, love, mercy, and grace upon us. Therefore, He rightly expects us to produce "good grapes."

1. What is meant by the phrase, "He looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes"? What might "wild grapes" represent in our lives?

2. In what ways are the unique blessings God has given you intended to produce a life that reflects His character?

3. Read *Matthew 21:33-41*. Jesus uses the same imagery as Isaiah. How do the sins of Israel's leaders (pride, greed, deception, injustice, and self-interest) resemble the "wild grapes" produced by the vineyard in Isaiah's day?

Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded. In John 15:1-15, Jesus teaches that the Father is the vinedresser, Jesus is the true vine, and we are the branches called to bear fruit. However, we can only bear fruit if we remain connected to Him. Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." (John 15:4)

4. How does abiding in Jesus help us produce good fruit rather than "wild grapes"?

5. What practices in your spiritual life help you remain connected to Christ?

6. What advice would you give someone who does not feel connected to Jesus?

Privilege requires faithfulness. As Jesus taught, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48). Isaiah reminds the people of Judah that they were given everything needed to produce good fruit, yet they produced only bad fruit. Wild grapes are sour, worthless for making wine, and ultimately fit only for destruction.

7. Jesus said, "Every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit." (*Matthew 7:17*). How can we discern whether fruit is good or bad?

8. As believers, we have received God's love and the privilege of being called His children (*John 1:12; 1 John 3:1*). How are you being faithful to that privilege?

9. At any given moment, we are producing either the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit (*Galatians 5:19-24*). What kind of fruit is your life producing right now?

TAKING IT HOME:

On their way to Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples saw a fig tree covered with leaves. Normally, a leafy fig tree would suggest the presence of fruit. Yet when they approached it, they found none. Jesus cursed the tree, and it withered (Matthew 21:18-19; Mark 11:12-14, 20-21). Symbolically, the fig tree represented the spiritual condition of Israel. Though outwardly religious, with its sacrifices, ceremonies, and traditions, the nation was spiritually barren because of its sin. Jesus referred to the religious leaders "whitewashed tombs", beautiful on the outside but only dead bones and filth within (Matthew 23:27). Shortly afterward, Jesus cleansed the Temple, condemning the corruption and hypocrisy that had infected their worship.

10. When we consider Jesus' judgment on the barren fig tree, the self-righteous religious leaders, and corrupt Temple worship – how should that effect our spiritual walk today?

11. What did you learn for this week's sermon that you can apply to your life?

12. Is there someone you can come along side of who may need help connecting to Jesus?