

A STUDY OF ISAIAH

The Vineyard That Failed

Lesson 3 · Isaiah 5

Name _____ Date _____

“What more could I have done for my vineyard than I did? Why, when I expected a yield of good grapes, did it yield worthless grapes?”

Isaiah 5:4

WHERE WE'RE GOING TODAY

1. A love song with a trap · 5:1–7
2. Six woes, part one · 5:8–17 · What Judah did with money
3. Six woes, part two · 5:18–24 · What Judah did with God
4. The hand still raised · 5:25–30
5. Looking to Christ · Mark 12:1–12; John 15:1

WHERE WE ARE

About _____ BC, near the end of _____'s reign. Judah is rich, well defended, and at _____ . Assyria has a new king, _____ , who is already swallowing the small states to the north. Within living memory an _____ has shaken the land (Amos 1:1).

The question this chapter answers: what does God do when He has done everything for a people and gotten _____ back?

1 A LOVE SONG WITH A TRAP (5:1–7)

Isaiah stands before a crowd and _____. It sounds like a love song about a man and a piece of ground. Everybody listening knew a vineyard. Most of them had worked in one.

WHAT THE OWNER DID (5:2)

- He broke up the soil and cleared it of _____
- He planted it with the _____
- He built a _____ in the middle of it, a permanent one, not a lean-to
- He dug out a _____, cut into the rock because he expected to need it for years

He expected good grapes. It yielded _____ grapes. The Hebrew is blunter than the English: “_____ -fruit.”

In 5:3 the owner stops singing and asks the crowd to be the _____. There is only one answer to 5:4: _____. It's the same move _____ made on David with a story about a lamb (2 Sam 12). The audience convicts the defendant before they find out who the defendant is.

The line that gave it away: “I will also give orders to the _____ that rain should not fall on it” (5:6). A farmer can't do that.

THE WORDPLAY THE ENGLISH CAN'T SHOW YOU (5:7)

	He expected...	But He found...
Line 1	_____ <i>mishpat</i>	_____ <i>mispach</i>
Line 2	_____ <i>tsedaqah</i>	_____ <i>tse'aqah</i>

From a distance the crop looked right. Up close it was the wrong thing wearing the right thing's _____.

Then and now. To them, the vineyard was the whole covenant history, and the harvest God came for was a society where the _____ were not crushed. For us, the question of 5:4 still has only one answer.

2 SIX WOES, PART ONE (5:8–17)

Woe is a _____ word, what you said when the body went by. Isaiah says it over people who are still alive and still at the party.

Woe	Verses	The sin	The sentence that fits it
1	5:8–10	_____	_____
2	5:11–12	_____	_____

In Israel the land belonged to _____, and each family held its piece on loan (Lev 25:23). Buying out your neighbor undid what God did at the _____.

The problem in 5:11–12 isn't the wine. It's what the wine crowded out: “They do not perceive the Lord's _____.” Assyria was on the march, and Judah's leading men had the music on.

Sheol is the Old Testament's name for the place of the _____. Notice who goes down in 5:14: the _____, still celebrating, still not looking.

In the middle of the wreckage, Isaiah repeats the refrain from chapter _____: humanity is brought _____, but the Lord of Armies is _____ (5:15–16).

3 SIX WOES, PART TWO (5:18–24)

Woe	Verses	The sin
3	5:18–19	_____
4	5:20	_____
5	5:21	_____
6	5:22–23	_____

Their answer to Isaiah's preaching in 5:19: _____. Show us, and then we'll believe.

Nobody in Jerusalem had abolished the law. They'd _____ it (5:20). Once a thing has a better name, nobody feels guilty doing it.

Woe 5 is the one underneath the other five. Be your own standard, and you have no way to find out you're _____.

Heroes in 5:22 is the word for David's _____. Judah's mighty men could hold their liquor, and they were the ones sitting on the bench.

Verse 24 answers verse 19. They told God to hurry, and it comes as fast as fire in dry _____.

The reason: they rejected the _____ of the Lord and despised the _____ of the Holy One of Israel.

4 THE HAND STILL RAISED (5:25–30)

The mountains quaked in 5:25: that's the _____ in Uzziah's day that Amos used to date his book. Judah had already felt the ground move once. Isaiah calls it a warning.

"In all this, his anger has not turned away, and his hand is still raised to strike."

Isaiah 5:25 · Watch for it again in 9:12, 17, 21; 10:4

God doesn't negotiate with empires. He raises a signal _____ and _____, and they come, quickly and swiftly (5:26). The nation is _____. The men who told God to hurry in 5:19 are about to see how fast He can move.

The chapter ends in _____ and distress (5:30). Chapters 1 and 4 ended with a survivor and a promise. What is missing here? _____

5 LOOKING TO CHRIST

Seven hundred years later, Jesus stood in the temple courts and started a story (Mark 12:1–12). Every priest listening heard Isaiah 5 in the first sentence.

— In Isaiah's song, the _____ fails.

— In Jesus' story, the _____ fail, and they kill the owner's _____.

Isaiah's crowd convicted itself and went home. This crowd convicted itself and went looking for a way to _____ Him (Mark 12:12).

The night before He died, Jesus said, “I am the true _____” (John 15:1). Where Israel failed to bear fruit for God, He did.

6 APPLYING THE TEXT

Put a check by the one you most need to work on this week.

- ☐ **Answer the owner's question.** It isn't whether He's done enough. It's what's growing.
- ☐ **Take the quiet woes seriously.** Not one of the six would get you arrested. God called all six a funeral.
- ☐ **Don't dare God to hurry.** Trust before the evidence is in. After that it isn't trust anymore.
- ☐ **Watch what you've renamed.** What did you used to call sin, and what kinder word have you found for it?
- ☐ **Remember who was crying.** Isaiah wasn't scolding his neighbors. He was grieving them.

7 FOR DISCUSSION

1. Trace the trap in 5:1–7. At what verse do you think the crowd realized who the owner was? What had they already agreed to by then?

2. The six woes cover land, drink, cynicism, relabeling, self-confidence, and bribery. Which one would have been hardest to see as a sin from inside Jerusalem? Which is hardest to see from inside your own life?

3. God's punishment in verses 13–14 fits the sin in verses 8–12 point for point. What does that tell you about how God judges?

4. The people in 5:19 say they'll believe God's plan when they see it. What is wrong with that as a way to relate to God? Have you ever made the same bargain, even quietly?

5. Chapter 5 ends with no promise, no remnant, and no light. Why do you think Isaiah put it there, right before the throne-room vision of chapter 6?

6. Jesus rewrote the song so that the tenants fail rather than the vineyard. If He were telling that parable to your congregation, which side of it would you be on?

NEXT WEEK

Lesson 4 • The Year King Uzziah Died • Isaiah 6:1–7

The darkness at the end of chapter 5 lingers as chapter 6 opens. Uzziah, the king who reigned for fifty-two years, is dead. Then Isaiah looks up.

Your assignment: read Isaiah 6:1–7 slowly, twice. Write down every word in it that has to do with fire or burning, and beside each one, whether that fire is a threat or a mercy.

NOTES