



Sermon, Sunday February 27, 2022

“A Song of the Vineyard”

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 5:1-7 ¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He 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; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And 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. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Introduction: Napa Valley Tour and A Song of the Vineyard

A long time ago, my wife and I went on a California Napa Valley Winery Tour. The winery guide explained why the wines produced in the Napa Valley are of high quality and popular with people. Our guide explained about California's abundant sunshine, wine aging techniques, wine storage know-how, and thorough care for the vines. My wife and I also had the opportunity to have a wine tasting, one of the highlights of the Winery Tour. I'm not a wine expert, but for me, Napa Valley's wines were smooth and sweet.

As you know, there are many parables about vineyards and vines in the Bible. Whenever I read the Bible about vineyards, I remember the Napa Valley Tour. My memory of the tour helps us understand the biblical parable of the vineyard.

Today's text is known as the '**A Song of the Vineyard**' and describes the Lord's love for the vineyard. The Lord planted the highest quality vines in good soil, and he spared no effort for the fruit of the vine. So, the Lord expected that the vine would bear good fruit. But bad grapes were produced. Then the owner of the vineyard, who represented the Lord, said: **Look at Isaiah 5:4. “What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?”**

The owner of the vineyard who had been taking care of the vineyard until then changed his mind and no longer wanted to take care of the vineyard. He removed the fence protecting the vineyard. As the owner of the vineyard no longer took care of the vineyard, it became abandoned land full of weeds. The Lord commanded the clouds to keep rain from falling on the vineyards.

The figure of the owner of the vineyard described in today's text figuratively shows how much love the Lord has shown us. The vineyard owner's disappointment is balanced by the magnitude of the vineyard owner's love.

Today's song of the vineyard shows the Lord's expectation and care for the people of Israel, represented as the vineyard, and Judah, representing the vine. Through today's text, we should be able to renew our lives by thinking about why the Lord stopped caring for His beloved people for a while and allowed judgment to occur.



Body: Bad Fruits of the People of Judah

Then, what are the bad fruits that the people of Judah produced, and why did they bear such fruits? Isaiah 5:8-30 clearly shows the fruit the people of Judah produced and why they had to bear such fruit.

The first is uncontrollable greed. Look at Isaiah 5:8. “Ah, you who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is room for no one but you, and you are left to live alone in the midst of the land!”

People are not very satisfied. Our lives will be a little happier if we experience life satisfaction earlier. Unfortunately, many people keep trying to fill it up and have more land and money. **Jesus said in Luke 12:15. “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”**

Second, because they fell into the joys of the world and their heart toward the Lord became hardened. Isaiah 5:11 says: “Ah, you who rise early in the morning in pursuit of strong drink, who linger in the evening to be inflamed by wine!” People indulged in worldly pleasures, like drinking starting in the morning. And they did not feel they wasted their time with drinking. If we live like this, we may be able to enjoy the pleasures of the world for a while. But the heart toward the Lord gradually becomes hard. For Christians, living this way of life is a shortcut that kills our holy spirit in us.

The third is because of a proud heart. Look at Isaiah 5:20. “Ah, you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

It is human pride to change the order and standards established by the Lord at will. Man's first sin stemmed from going beyond the limits set by the Lord. The Lord said that if humans eat the fruit from the center of the Garden of Eden, humans will die, but Adam did not obey the Lord's commands even though he knew the Lord's will. As a result, death came to human life.

The Lord wants us to look back on our lives and bear good fruit through today's text. We must not forget that the Lord does not want us to bear good fruit because of an unrestrained heart, a poor heart toward Him, or our pride. So, what should we do?

Conclusion: We are the Lord's Vineyard

Now let's summarize today's sermon. In today's text, the Lord calls us 'my vineyard'. Isaiah 5:3-4 describes this clearly. **“And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.” (Isaiah 5:3), “What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?” (Isaiah 5:4).** Jesus also said. **“I am the true vine, and my father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.” (John 15:1-2).**

The Lord loves us so much that He works to make us clean. How can we bear abundant fruit in our lives?

- 1) We must be able to handle the greed of the heart by cultivating the power of self-control.
- 2) Rather than luxuries, pleasures, and greed, we must build a deep relationship with the Lord.
- 3) Lastly, we must not be arrogant and try to change what the Lord has commanded us to do, but we must reveal the Lord's righteousness and holiness.

Isaiah 5:17 says: “Then the lambs shall graze as in their pasture, fatlings and kids shall feed among the ruins.” Let us trust that the Lord has prepared green pastures for us. This pasture is the place of the Lord's protection and care. So, there is joy and peace. This is a place where satisfaction without lack is given to us. I hope that everyone will enjoy the reward that the Lord gives to the vines he loves.

