

Woe to you

Isaiah Chapter 5

The Vineyard

Isaiah 5:1-7

1 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

3 “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. **4** What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? **5** Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.

6 I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” **7** The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

The Vineyard

Matthew 21:33-44

33 “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. **34** When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

35 “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. **36** Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. **37** Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. **38** “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance’.

39 So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. **40**

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” **41** “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “ ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? **43** “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. **44** Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.

Exploiting others

Isaiah 5:8-10

8 Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land. **9** The LORD Almighty has declared in my hearing: “Surely the great houses will become desolate, the fine mansions left without occupants. **10** A ten-acre vineyard will produce only a bath of wine; a homer of seed will yield only an ephah of grain.”

Drunkenness

Isaiah 5:11-12

11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine. **12** They have harps and lyres at their banquets, pipes and timbrels and wine, but they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD, no respect for the work of his hands.

Mankind humbled

Isaiah 5:13-14

13 Therefore my people will go into exile for lack of understanding; those of high rank will die of hunger and the common people will be parched with thirst. **14** Therefore Death expands its jaws, opening wide its mouth; into it will descend their nobles and masses with all their brawlers and revelers.

Mankind humbled

“Many of today’s media, business, and sports heroes are idolized because of their ability to live as they please. Are your heroes those who defy God, or those who defy the world in order to serve God.”

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Mankind humbled

Isaiah 5:15-17

15 So people will be brought low and everyone humbled, the eyes of the arrogant humbled. **16** But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts. **17** Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture; lambs will feed among the ruins of the rich.

Pride in sin

Isaiah 5:18-19

18 Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes, **19** to those who say, “Let God hurry; let him hasten his work so we may see it. The plan of the Holy One of Israel— let it approach, let it come into view, so we may know it.”

Confused morals

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those 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.

Confused morals

“When people do not carefully observe the distinction between good and evil, destruction soon follows... when we make excuses for our actions, we break down the distinction between right and wrong. If we do not take God’s Word, the Bible, as our standard, soon all moral choices will appear fuzzy. Without God we are headed for a breakdown and much suffering.”

Conceited

Isaiah 5:21

**Woe to those who are wise in
their own eyes and clever in
their own sight**

Perverting justice

Isaiah 5:22-24

22 Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, **23** who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent.

24 Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Perverting justice

“The people suffered because they rejected God’s law. It is sad to see so many people today searching for the meaning of life while spurning God’s Word. We can avoid the error of Israel and Judah by making not only reading the Bible, but also understanding and obeying it, a high priority in our lives.”

Woe to you

Matthew 23:25-28

25 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. **26** Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. **28** In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

The LORD's anger

Isaiah 5:25-30

25 Therefore the LORD's anger burns against his people; his hand is raised and he strikes them down. The mountains shake, and the dead bodies are like refuse in the streets. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

26 He lifts up a banner for the distant nations, he whistles for those at the ends of the earth. Here they come, swiftly and speedily! **27** Not one of them grows tired or stumbles, not one slumbers or sleeps; not a belt is loosened at the waist, not a sandal strap is broken. **28** Their arrows are sharp, all their bows are strung; their horses' hooves seem like flint, their chariot wheels like a whirlwind.

29 Their roar is like that of the lion, they roar like young lions; they growl as they seize their prey and carry it off with no one to rescue.

30 In that day they will roar over it like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks at the land, there is only darkness and distress; even the sun will be darkened by clouds.

The LORD's anger

“This passage describes what God would do if people disobeyed Him... Sin has consequences. Although this judgement was not immediate, eventually Judah was punished.”

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Applications

- **God loves those who are His, but He expects obedience**
- **If we don't obey The LORD, we can expect judgment**

Final Thoughts

“The Christian church today faces a crisis of major proportions. It is a crisis of worldview...The issue is as new today and as old as time. It is the question: Is there any meaning to life outside of myself and the meaning I give to it? Our culture has come to the very concerned conclusion that there is not.”

“Thus, it is incumbent on the church to reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to the authority of God’s revelation. If we compromise on this issue, we will have lost our reason to exist. The salt will have lost its saltiness indeed...”

Final Thoughts

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.