

# Isaiah 5

I will sing for the one I love  
a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> 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?

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland,  
neither pruned nor cultivated,  
and briars and thorns will grow there.

I will command the clouds  
not to rain on it."

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> **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.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD Almighty has declared in my hearing:  
"Surely the great houses will become desolate,  
the fine mansions left without occupants.

<sup>10</sup> A ten-acre vineyard will produce only a bath<sup>[a]</sup> of wine;  
a homer<sup>[b]</sup> of seed will yield only an ephah<sup>[c]</sup> of grain."

<sup>11</sup> **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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> **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.

<sup>14</sup> **Therefore** Death expands its jaws,  
opening wide its mouth;  
into it will descend their nobles and masses  
with all their brawlers and revelers.

<sup>15</sup> So people will be brought low  
and everyone humbled,  
the eyes of the arrogant humbled.

<sup>16</sup> But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice,  
and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts.

<sup>17</sup> Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture;  
lambs will feed<sup>[d]</sup> among the ruins of the rich.

<sup>18</sup> **Woe** to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit,  
and wickedness as with cart ropes,

<sup>19</sup> 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."

<sup>20</sup> **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.

<sup>21</sup> **Woe** to those who are wise in their own eyes  
and clever in their own sight.

<sup>22</sup> **Woe** to those who are heroes at drinking wine  
and champions at mixing drinks,

<sup>23</sup> who acquit the guilty for a bribe,  
but deny justice to the innocent.

<sup>24</sup> **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.

<sup>25</sup> **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.

<sup>26</sup> 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!

<sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> Their arrows are sharp,  
all their bows are strung;  
their horses' hooves seem like flint,  
their chariot wheels like a whirlwind.

<sup>29</sup> 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.

<sup>30</sup> 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.

# 3 Serious Questions: Why Not Live as I Want?

## Part 1 of 3 ★ Isaiah 5



- rotten fruit

## God's Disgust at Bad Fruit

- the song of the vineyard (5:1-7)
- the catalogue of bad fruit (5:8-30)
  - six "woes"<sup>1</sup>  
(6 clusters of sour grapes)
    - o greed (8-10)
    - o debauchery (11-12)
    - o defiance (18-19)
    - o distortion (20)
    - o smugness (21)
    - o self-interest (22-23)
  - four "therefores"  
(4 aspects of divine judgment)
    - o exile (13)
    - o death (14)
    - o fire (24)
    - o wrath (25)

## God's Delight in Good Fruit <sup>2</sup>

- forgiveness through Jesus

- fruit through Jesus



<sup>1</sup> In the Bible when a prophet or Jesus issues a "woe" this is not a condemnation to final judgment but an expression of heart-felt warning ("alas") about the misery that awaits someone in a certain condition.  
<sup>2</sup> **Isaiah 27:6; Colossians 1:6; Matthew 21:33-46; Ephesians 1:4; Mark 4:20; John 15:1-17; Romans 7:4-6; Galatians 5:16-25; Matthew 12:23-35; Philipians 1:11; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:11**



## Jesus Wants Fruitfulness

### John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he will be even **more fruitful**. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can **bear fruit** by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you **bear fruit** unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear **much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear **much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

