

Series: Isaiah

Lesson #8

Title: A Song of Judgment and Righteousness

Scripture: Isaiah 5: 1-23

Date: 10-12-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Proposition: God shows great mercy toward his elect in the just punishment of sinner's who despise the goodness of God.

Every child of Adam is a sinner and must die under the holy justice of God. All men are guilty before God. As the LORD declared his glory to Moses, in **Exodus 34:7**, we understand that our God keeps **mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty***. He does show mercy, he does forgive, but every iniquity, transgression and sin of every sinner shall by no means be cleared until justice is served.

How then can God save a sinner if he will not clear the guilty? God is just and the justifier of all who believe because he poured out justice on his dear Son in place of those who trust him. But those who despise God and the goodness he has shown in his well-beloved Son must suffer themselves for their rebellion against God.

Yet, when the believer beholds that God will not turn from executing his justice upon rebellious sinners, we behold the same immutability concerning his grace toward those who put their trust in him. Because God is holy and just, we know that not one for whom Christ suffered holy justice, shall ever be left to suffer justice a second time. Therefore, the believer beholds the great, unchanging mercy of God toward him, whenever we behold the great, unchanging justice of God.

In the last day of God's holy judgment, those saved by his free grace will not only rejoice in the grace and love of God, but in the judgment of God as well. For the judgment of the unbeliever is because of the rejection of the Lord our Righteousness.

Revelation 19: 1: And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2: For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3: And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4: And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. 5: And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6: And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God

omnipotent reigneth. 7: Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Our title this morning is: A Song of Judgment and Righteousness

Isaiah 5: 1: Now will I sing to my well-beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard.

Our text this morning is a song written by Isaiah, under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit. This song is written to the praise of his beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ. The subject of this song is the Lord's vineyard. In verse 7 we are told that the vineyard is the "house of Israel and the men of Judah"--the nation and men which the LORD delivered from Egypt and showed great favor for many years.

Proposition: Through one nation the LORD declares plainly what he has done in giving his only begotten Son for his elect among every nation and he shows what shall be the case of sinner's out of every nation who reject his Son.

I. GOD HAS PROVIDED EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR THE SALVATION OF HELPLESS SINNERS.

A. We see the goodness of God in the great things the LORD did for the nation of Israel.

Isaiah 5: 1:...My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

The nation of Israel was God's vineyard in a very fruitful hill. He called them his own and set them apart for himself. The hill in which he placed them was a well cultivated, well fertilized land by the very goodness which he showed to that one nation.

V2: And he fenced it,

1. God protected Israel from all her enemies.
2. By what the Lord did for the nation Israel, the covenant God declares to you sinner what he has done for the believer who now trusts him; those who make up his true Jerusalem:

Zechariah 2:5: For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

John 10:28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

V2:...and gathered out the stones thereof,

1. Every earthly shackle, every earthly enemy, every idol the LORD removed from the midst of the nation Israel and the few idols he left he commanded them not to go that way to prove them.
2. What the Lord did for Israel in the land is what the Lord Jesus Christ has done in free grace for those who put their trust in him. **Psalm 44: 3: For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right**

hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

V2:...and planted it with the choicest vine, (choicest seed)

1. The men of Israel were the seed of Abraham.
2. Before delivering Israel into their promised rest, he removed the rebellious children in the wilderness who believed not the word of the Lord and delivered them by the hand of Joshua.
3. He planted the nation Israel with his divine oracles--his word, his holy, just and good law, he gave them the high priest and declared plainly how they could approach him in a lamb.

This is what the God of all salvation has done in Christ Jesus. Christ is the seed of Abraham. He is the faithful Joshua--our Savior. He is the Word. The Holy, Just and Good Lawgiver and the one in whom the law is fulfilled, magnified and honored for the believer. He is the believer's High Priest. He is the Lamb who died in place of his people that the law might rest its case toward them. What the Lord did in the nation Israel is a type of what the Lord has done for his people.

V2:...and built a tower in the midst of it,

1. The Lord built the Temple of God in the midst of that nation--the Sanctuary of Safety and Communion with God.
2. In the Temple he promised to meet with them and did so. In the Temple he made his presence and power known in their midst. In the Temple is where they beheld that the LORD was pleased to deal with his one nation alone.
3. Who did that Temple typify? Christ is the place where sinner's come for a Sanctuary of Safety, the place where our God will meet with us, the one in whom his power and pleasure is made known toward his people.

John 2: 19: Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20: Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21: But he spake of the temple of his body.

V2:...and also made a winepress therein:

1. Under the Spirit of God, Isaiah is using metaphorical language for the great care which the LORD actually provided for the nation Israel. He is describing the house of Israel as a vineyard where grapes are grown. The juice of the grape is extracted by treading the grapes in the winepress. He says, "My well-beloved, hewed a winepress where they might enjoy the fruit of the vine." But they brought forth no fruit.

2. We know that Christ our Lord is the fruitful Vine. Isaiah makes mention of Christ with this metaphor often.

Let me point out a few things to you here:

Isaiah 53: 1: Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2: For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: (a root, then a tender plant, then a branch or vine) he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

- The natural eye finds no comeliness in Christ but look back to how the Lord says he shall be beheld in that day his glory is revealed.

Isaiah 4: 2: In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

- Why is he excellent and comely in that day? Because then we behold that he is not only the Vine, but he has brought forth the wine of refreshing because he tread the winepress alone.
- What does that mean? It means he did all the work. It means in him the righteousness of God is manifest because he brought in everlasting righteousness, he satisfied the law by dying in place of his people and in him God is both just and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. That is what is meant by treading the winepress alone.

Isaiah 63: 1: Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2: Wherefore *art thou* red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3: I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people *there was* none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4: For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5: And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6: And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

- Now go back to Isaiah 1: 19 and you may find new meaning in what the Lord declares here:

Isaiah 1: 19: If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: (the fruit of the earth, the good of the land is the Son of God, Christ our Lord.)

B. Now listen to the LORD's complaint with the house of Israel.

Isaiah 5: 2:...and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

1. In Israel's rejection, we behold the case of every sinner who rejects, Christ the Lord.

- The LORD declared to the house of Israel in all that he did that salvation is of the LORD.
- He looked that they would trust him alone for all, which is what is means by the phrase, *if ye being willing and obedient...and ye shall eat the good of the land...*this willingness is itself the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Instead, they rejected him--they brought forth wild grapes.

Illustration: Wild grapes look like the grapes planted by a husbandman. In fact, wild grapes can grow up right beside a grape that is planted by the husbandman. That was the case in Israel.

Isaiah 1: 11: To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. 12: When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? 13: Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting. 14: Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear *them*. 15: And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

They were in the camp of Israel; they had the LORD's word; they called themselves by his name, by all appearances they came the same way as the believer. What made them wild grapes?

- A. Isaiah 5: 8-10--The love of the world, covetousness.
- B. Isaiah 5: 11-15--The love of pleasure, drunkenness and sensuality.
- C. Isaiah 5: 18-19--Infidelity, unbelief and blasphemy.
- D. Isaiah 5: 20--Moral and spiritual perversion.
- E. Isaiah 5: 21--Haughtiness and pride.
- F. Isaiah 5: 22-23--Oppression.

Here is the judgment--Isaiah 5: 24-25

II. SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS VINEYARD OF WILD GRAPES?

A. The LORD called on the house of Israel to confess their own sin and thus judge God as true in condemning them.

Isaiah 5: 3: And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4: What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? 5: And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; *and* break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: 6: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7: For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

1. God sent his prophets to Israel and they stoned every one. At last he sent them his Son.
 - He looked for judgment and righteousness which the believer establishes only by faith in his Son.
 - But he found oppression and heard the cry, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

- Therefore, the house of Israel was left desolate and God sent his grace to his elect scattered among every nation in the world.

Matthew 21: 33: Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: 34: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35: And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. 36: Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37: But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. 38: But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39: And they caught him, and cast *him* out of the vineyard, and slew *him*. 40: When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41: They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out *his* vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. 42: Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43: Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44: And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

And The LORD God manifest his rejection of the house of Israel in 70 AD through Titus destruction of Jerusalem.

And this was a clear foreshadowing of what shall come to pass on a world-wide scale toward those he die in unbelief.

Application:

1. First, in God's provision to Israel we behold what God has provided in Christ Jesus for his true Israel--the elect of God--from among every nation on earth.

- Christ is the Fence of Protection to those who trust him alone.
- Christ has gathered out every stony-enemy from the midst of his people.
- Christ is the choicest Vine which beareth much fruit.
- Christ is the Tower always in the midst of the believer and in whom his church has access to God
- Christ tread the Winepress alone so the believer can rest from his self-righteous, self-sanctifying labor and drink freely the best Wine by faith in Christ.

2. But for every sinner who goes on his rebellion, the omnipotent God will cause you to confess all your iniquity in the day of judgment.

Isaiah 5: 4: What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?

- Then he will declare the all-sufficient name of Jesus

Isaiah 5: 16: But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

- Christ said to the Jews, "Your house is left to you desolate."
- For every sinner who dies in unbelief God shall be set apart before your eyes in judgment and in righteousness when you behold that judgment and righteousness of God's people was indeed settled in Christ at Calvary.
- You will bow before him and confess--Jesus Christ is Lord.
- "Everything which needed to be done in your vineyard you did Lord. I perish because of my own sin and unbelief."

3. But in the same way as Isaiah's song calls on the house of Israel to confess, when the Lord calls a sinner in sovereign, irresistible grace, he causes that sinner to confess his sin, thereby unburdening him of all his iniquity and transgression against God, and he makes that sinner behold judgment and righteousness settled on his behalf at Calvary in Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 5: 16: But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness. (Just as it came to pass when the Lord began pouring out his grace to his lambs throughout all the world after Christ's ascension. In that day when God exalts himself in judgment and righteousness in Christ to you) **17: Then shall the lambs feed after their manner, and the waste places of the fat ones shall strangers eat.**

- Oh, that God would be pleased to call you right now and make you willing to confess to him where you are?
- If you continue on in your rebellion you will not alter God's purpose of grace, but you will perish in your sins.
- If you turn to him he will save you with an everlasting salvation for if you turn and continue by faith alone in Christ then it is God who has turned you.

When Adam sinned the Lord came and made him confess: Adam where art thou?

- Do you need the Lord of salvation? I leave you with the question God used toward Adam, "Where art thou?"
- May God be pleased to make us honest. Amen.