

Introduction: Even though God is perfect in love and justice, righteousness and grace, mercy and power; and people are created in His image; at this time, and going back to the Garden of Eden, people always ‘fall short’ of God’s purpose for them. *** Over seven hundred years before God’s Son was born in Bethlehem, Isaiah sang a parable song to God about how God’s well-tended vineyard produced only wild grapes, so He would lay it to waste. *** But, sometime later, Isaiah was given a word about a Righteous Branch, to come from the line of David, who would be filled with The Spirit of The Covenant God to advocate for the poor and humble, and to slay the wicked. Over one hundred years later Jeremiah was given a stronger word about The Righteous Branch: He would bring salvation and safety to God’s people (Jeremiah 23:1-8). ** Then they could **repent and receive The Righteous Branch.** *** When Jesus came, He updated Isaiah’s vineyard parable in the week before He went to The Cross to save Pharisees, Jews and all people who would turn from their ‘falling short’ ways to Him in faith in His Person and Work. *** This truth about Jesus, The Savior, Who IS The Way, The Truth and The Life (John 14:1-6), is what we can all be MOST thankful about in this Thanksgiving week. *** Let us now look more closely at our passages to understand both God’s goodness and His grace.

I. Isaiah prophecies a song parable about God and the vineyard He planted which was found wanting and will be destroyed.
(*Isaiah 5:1-7*)

- A. The prophet sings of a vineyard his beloved Covenant God of hosts planted. (*Verses 1-2*)
1. I will sing to my Well-beloved / song of love concerning His vineyard. (*Verses 1a-b*)
Well-beloved: The word *yah-deed* describes a person who is greatly loved. Isaiah loved Yahweh!
Vineyard: This passage is a parable love song about God’s vineyard. The word love is *dōd*: beloved, uncle, love. It is the basis of the proper name *Dah-weed*, the king of Israel from whom Messiah would come (2 Samuel 7:8-16; Romans 1:1-5; 2 Timothy 2:7-10).
 2. Vineyard had my Well-beloved on a hill, fertile / then He dug about, then He gathered out its stones / then He planted: choice vine // Then He built tower in (the) midst of it / then wine vat He hewed-out. (*Verses 1c-2d*)
Hill fertile: Literally this reads, ‘horn, son of oil’. It is a figure of speech, first for a place that is elevated and solid; then, oil symbolizes that which makes life abundant, figuratively: fertile.
Did all He could: God did three things to insure the vineyard would produce good grapes. He loosened the soil and removed all that would hinder growth; He planted His hand-picked vine; He built a tower to protect the vineyard.
 3. Then He waited (for it) to bring forth grapes / then it brought forth wild grapes. (*Verses 2e-f*)
Expectation: God waited in expectation of a harvest of grapes to make the heart glad (Psalm 104:15).
Result: But, the result of His care was unexpected: wild grapes, unfit to drink!
- B. Yahweh Sabaoth judges His vineyard, finds it is wanting, and declares its destruction. (*Verses 3-6*)
1. ‘And, now, (all) inhabiting Jerusalem, and men of Judah / You all must judge, I pray, between Me and between My vineyard’. (*Verse 3*)
God speaks: Isaiah now quotes God speaking to His people. He commands them, with a gentle entreaty, to consider rightly in His case against His vineyard.
 2. ‘What to do more for My vineyard, and I have not done in it? / How I had waited for it to bring forth grapes, then it brought forth wild grapes?’ (*Verse 4*)
Question: God now asks two questions of His people: What more could I do? Why did it yield (literally) ‘stink-berries?!’
 3. ‘And, now, I will make known, I pray, (to) you all what I am doing to My vineyard / to remove its hedge and it has been consumed / to break down its wall and it has been trampled down’. (*Verse 5*)
God’s sentence: As punishment, God will remove the protective hedge and wall around His vineyard; and, the resulting consumption and trampling are as certain as if they already happened!
 4. ‘And I will lay waste, / not it will be pruned and not it will be hoed // and has grown up briars and thorns, / and still the clouds I will command from to make rain upon it rain’. (*Verse 6*)
Laid waste: After restating His strict judgment, God describes three ways He will lay waste to His vineyard. It will not be cultivated. Surely, only weeds have grown up after He declares judgment. Finally, He will bring a severe drought.
- C. Isaiah says the nation of Israel is the vineyard. (*Verse 7*)
1. For the vineyard of Yahweh of Hosts (is) house of Israel / and men of Judah (are) planting pleasant of Him. (*Verse 7a*)
God’s people: Isaiah now interprets the parable song. The ten northern tribes are Yahweh Sabaoth’s vineyard; and, the tribe of Judah, from which Messiah will come, is planted special for Him.
 2. Then He waited for justice, but behold! bloodshed / for righteousness, but behold! outcry. (*Verse 7b*)
Opposition to God’s expectation: While waiting for righteousness and justice from the twelve tribes of Israel (His chosen), God found that the leaders, motivated by greed, shed the blood of the vulnerable majority of people to such a degree that they cried out to Him in their distress.

Bottom line: When Isaiah gave this song, Assyria had just carried the ten northern tribes into captivity, hence the past tense verbs; but in one hundred fifty years, Babylon would carry off the men of Judah, destroy the Temple, and burn everything to the ground. This punishment is irreversible!

II. The Messiah from David will be filled with The Spirit; side with the needy and slay the wicked;

Jesus affirmed He is Messiah with His vineyard parable. (*Isaiah 11:1-5; Mark 12:1-3*)

- A. The Messiah will come from David, filled with The Spirit of The Covenant God and the fear of Yahweh. (*Isaiah 11:1-3*)
1. It has come forth, a twig from the stump of Jesse / a Branch from his roots will be fruitful. (*Verse 1*)
Messiah: Jesse (*yee-shai*, I possess) is David’s father. As was already said, Messiah is from David.
Branch: Jeremiah’s ‘Righteous Branch’ has already been introduced. He will be fruitful, unlike Israel.

2. And has rested on Him The Spirit of Yahweh: / The Spirit of wisdom and understanding // The Spirit of counsel and might / The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh. (*Verse 2*)
Spirit of Covenant God: First and foremost, The Spirit of The Covenant God will rest on Messiah.
Three-fold character: The Messiah will receive three combinations of character gifts from The Spirit of Yahweh: wisdom and understanding to govern people greater than Solomon did (1 Kings 3:9-12; Matthew 12:42); counsel and might for waging war (2 Kings 19:35); knowledge and fear of Yahweh for spiritual leadership (2 Samuel 23:1-3).

Application: Let us always give thanks for the three-fold gifting of Messiah Jesus.

3. To ‘smell’ in the fear of Yahweh / and not by sight of His eyes He will judge / and not by hearing of His ears will He decide. (*Verse 3*)

Fear of Yahweh: Metaphorically, to ‘smell’ means to take delight. Messiah will delight in the fear of Yahweh and doing His will (Psalm 40:8).

More than senses: Messiah will rule using more than His senses. His decisions will come from His fear of Yahweh and the gifts of The Spirit of Yahweh.

- B. He will advocate for the poor and humble and slay the wicked, clothed in righteousness and faithfulness. (*Isaiah 11:4-5*)

1. And He has judged in righteousness the poor / and He has decided in uprightness to the humble. (*Verses 4a-b*)

Righteousness: Messiah, The Branch from David, has upheld the cause of poor and humble people over against the ‘stink-berries’ of the corrupt leadership of God’s vineyard Israel. The only hope for the oppressive leaders is to ...

Repent and receive The Righteous Branch

Application: Everyone hearing me has more wealth, privilege and freedom than ninety percent of the people in the world; but, we must recognize our spiritual poverty and be humbled before God.

2. And He has smitten (the) earth (with) the rod of His mouth / and (with) breath of His lips He will slay (the) wicked. (*Verses 4c-d*)

Slay wicked: In addition to lifting up the humble, in His Righteousness, He will put to death wicked people. Both must be true of God’s Anointed King.

3. And it has been righteousness the belt around His waist (NJB, NIV) / and faithfulness the belt of His hips (NJB). (*Verse 5*)

Righteousness and faithfulness: There is only ONE truly faithful man: The Son of Man, Jesus Christ. He is the Righteous Branch from Jesse-David. The only way for ‘falling short’ of God’s expectations people to be made right with God is to ...

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- C. Jesus updates the parable of the vineyard for the Pharisees who are rebelling against Him as The Owner. (*Mark 12:1-3*)

1. And He began to them in parables to speak: (*Verse 1a*)

Parables: Jesus gave forty parables, fifteen of them exclusive to the Gospel of Luke. They get past critical thinking to go straight to the heart because they are down to earth and about everyday life.

2. Vineyard a man had planted, and he put around a hedge, and he dug pit under winepress, and he built a tower; and, he leased it to vinedressers and he journeyed. (*Verses 1b-d*)

Vineyard: Jesus begins with the man taking the same four actions God took with His vineyard in the Isaiah parable. The Pharisees well knew the Isaiah parable.

Subleases: Here Jesus adds a detail: the man (Jesus) put vinedressers in charge and he went away on a journey (Jesus at God’s right hand now).

3. And he sent to the vinedressers, in the season, a servant that from the vinedressers he might receive from of the fruit of the vineyard. (*Verse 2*)

Sends servant: God (in the Person of Jesus) sends His servant to receive good fruit from His vineyard.

4. And having taken hold him (the servant), they beat and they sent away empty. (*Verse 3*)

Caught and beat: Are the vinedressers only the well-to-do people, or are they all the people Jesus sends out into His vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)?

Empty: The servant is beaten and sent away empty. He may represent servants who do all Jesus commands and then say ‘we have only done what was our duty’ (Luke 17:7-10, RSV).

Deserve destruction: Clearly, the vinedressers deserve to be destroyed by death for rebelling against the owner of the vineyard.

Gospel: The good news is God made a way for people to be changed so they can obey His commands. Jesus was faithful: to be born a man; to live a perfect life before people and God; to die the death people deserve to die and taking their punishment on Himself; and, to rise to life again. Whoever receives Jesus as a free gift of God, can be forgiven by God. The moment a person is forgiven, The Spirit that anointed Jesus comes into that person, who is then changed and saved from his rebellion. We must receive The Person and Work of God’s Spirit filled Savior, Jesus. Then we can ...

Thank God Jesus came to save from rebellion.

Conclusion: God has done everything for people so everyone can live a fruitful and productive life that is pleasing to Him. But, people refuse to receive what God gives so they end up ruining their lives. However, in His LOVE, God sent The Savior King who was filled with His Spirit to help those who humbly know they are spiritually poor, but to slay the wicked who remain rebellious, because He is righteous and faithful.

May we all **repent and receive The Righteous Branch.**