

A Trek Through Isaiah 08 - Is 5:1-30

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Prayer

Introduction (to 9:35)

For today

- 5:1-7 The Vineyard of the LORD
- 5:8-30 The Stink-Fruit Harvest

No longer walk as the Gentiles do (to 9:40)

Elements of worship: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

Eph 4:17-19 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, **due to their hardness of heart**. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

- Hardness of heart
 - a. The unbelieving heart does not submit to God.
 - Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.
 - b. Example of the Pharisees Mk 3:1-6
 - Jesus healed on the Sabbath.
 - Their religion said no work on the Sabbath.
 - They thought they were serving God.
 - They were unwilling to submit to Him. They plotted to kill Him.
 - c. Example of the disciples Mk 16:14 Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.
 - Rebuked by Jesus because they had not believed those who had seen Him risen.
 - A risen Christ did not fit their understanding of the Scriptures.
 - But they were willing to repent.
 - d. Difference between the hard heart and the soft heart: **repentance**.

5:1-30 Grace exhausted.

- 5:1-7 The Vineyard of the LORD. A parable.
- 5:8-30 The Stink-Fruit Harvest. Description of the harvest and its consequences.

5:1-7 The Vineyard of the Lord

Isa 5:1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: ...

HENRY a parable based on Moses' song Dt 32.

V1-2 The case

- Complete preparation
 - Planted on a very fertile hill.
 - Dug out & cleared of stones.
 - Planted w choice vines.
 - Permanent watchtower & wine vat.
- Expectation: good grapes
- Result: **worthless** fruit
 - Heb: stinking things
 - Dt 32:32 For their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of poison; their clusters are bitter.

V3-4 Call to judgment.

V5-6 Sentence

- Hedge removed > devoured. Wall broken down > trampled.
- Made a waste; not cultivated.
- No rain.

V7 Explanation

Isa 5:7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

- Vineyard is Israel. Planting is Judah.
- Preparation was the history of the nation. Expectation was justice & righteousness. Result was bloodshed & outcry (of the oppressed).
- HENRY: God gave them an excellent law and expected to see excellent results in their lives, but the result was quite the opposite.

Warning: stand fast through **faith**

- Rom 11:20-21 They (the Jews) were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. (21) For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you....

5:8-30 The Stink-Fruit Harvest

Description of the stink-fruit harvest and its consequences

2 woes 2 therefore 4 woes 2 therefore.

Woes 1&2 deal with misuse of material things.

V8-10 Woe to those who accumulate **property**.

Isa 5:8 Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land.

- Behavior
 - Endless desire.
 - Willingness to push others aside to fulfill their lust, wanting to monopolize the whole earth for their benefit.
 - As Alexander who wept that there were not more worlds to conquer.
- Consequences match the sin
 - Empty houses
 - Barren land

V11-12 Woe to those who feast and party and have no **regard** for the LORD.

Isa 5:11-12 Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them! (12) They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands.

- Behavior
 - Drunkenness
 - Partying
 - No regard for the LORD.
- CALVIN: like beasts who care only for their bellies. They do not consider for what end God made them.

V13 Therefore God's people go into **captivity**

- Consequences match the sin
 - The people go into captivity due to lack of knowledge.
 - There is hunger and thirst.
- HENRY:
 - They have no knowledge because they will have none.
 - They feel the lack because they abused what they had.
 - Joel 1:5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep, and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine, for it is cut off from your mouth.

V14-17 Therefore man is **humbled** and God is **exalted**

Isa 5:14-16 Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure, and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down, her revelers and he who exults in her. (15) Man is humbled, and each one is brought low, and the eyes of the haughty are brought low. (16) But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.

- The nobility & the revelers will go into Sheol.
 - Ps 49:20 Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish.
- Proud men will be humbled
- The LORD will be exalted
 - His holiness revealed in (1) justice and (2) righteousness.
 - Ps 89:13-14 You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand.
14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
- There will be flocks and nomads among the ruins.
 - A picture of desolation

Woes 3-6 deal with moral & spiritual issues.

V18-19 Woe to those who are bound to iniquity and **taunt** the LORD.

Isa 5:18-19 Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, who draw sin as with cart ropes, (19) who say: "Let him be quick, let him speed his work that we may see it; let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near, and let it come, that we may know it!"

- Increasing bondage to sin.
 - Cords...ropes: harnessed as a beast of burden.
 - Proverbs 5:22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.
- Not believing God and waiting patiently, rather testing Him.
 - Sarcastic. As false teachers in 2 Pet 3:3-4 ...scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming?"

V20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.

- Ethics replaced by expediency. Presuming to declare right and wrong
- CALVIN: ridiculing both God's words and His deeds. Dependence on God's words is a sign of true faith.
- Core LGBT assertion: gay is good.

V21 Woe to those who think themselves **wise**.

Isa 5:21-23 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!

- Not heeding Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.
 - Thinking oneself wise is the opposite of fearing the LORD.

V22-23 Woe to those who are strong in partying and weak in **justice**.

Isa 5:22-23 Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, (23) who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!

- Justice completely perverted
- Note the connection between strong drink and injustice.
 - Pr 31:5 ...lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

V24 Therefore God's people are consumed and rotted

Isa 5:24 Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Consequence:

- As stubble & chaff in a fire.
- As rotting of a plant

Reason

- Rejected God's law.
- Despised His word.
- Note the focus on God's word.

V25-30 Therefore judgment and darkness

V25 Judgment on God's people

Isa 5:25 Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them,

- He is still angry. The thought is that throughout Israel's history they sinned, God brought judgment but they did not repent, so He is still angry. Now He will bring an irresistible judgment.

V26-28 Irresistible invader

Isa 5:26 He will raise a signal for nations far away, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth; and behold, quickly, speedily they come!

- God calls nations to execute judgment on His people.
- They come speedily. As the mockers in v19 asked.
- None can rescue Judah from their hand.

V29-30 Two pictures of despair

Isa 5:29-30 Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl and seize their prey; they carry it off, and none can rescue. (30) They will growl over it on that day, like the growling of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, darkness and distress; and the light is darkened by its clouds.

- Irresistible predator
 - Lions in their prime.
 - roaring HENRY: Those who would not hear the warnings of the prophets will not be able to shut their ears to the roar of their enemies.
- Irresistible storm
 - As mariners on a stormy sea
 - They look to the land, where there should be refuge, but there is only darkness and distress. The light of the land is hidden by clouds.
 - No relief in any direction.

The section ends with a vision of upcoming judgment, hopelessness, despair for God's people.

Worship (to 10:15)

1. We will break into three groups to discuss today's passage. Join the group with the topic that seems most significant. Must be at least three people in each group. Select one person to scribe.
2. In your group, discuss your passage and identify
 - Something about God that you see in the passage
 - The effect that this view of God has upon you.
 - A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.
3. Each group will report to the class what they found.

Caution: Please focus on personal effects and responses.

- 2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....

For next week: Overview of Is 6 - 12.

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