

THE PARABLES OF Jesus

The Deep, Ancient Roots of the LORD's Vineyard

Lesson 3

"There was a master of a house who planted a _____..." (Matt 21:33)

Seven hundred years before Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," the prophet Isaiah was inspired by God to deliver a parable-like song of his own. Let's turn back to **Isaiah 5:1-7** and carefully read the prophet's "love song." **What was the problem?** Speaking of the master of the vineyard...

He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded _____ grapes. (5:2)

But is the prophet *really* just talking about a vineyard and wild grapes? Notice especially 5:7:

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the _____ of Israel,
and the _____ of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for _____,
but behold, bloodshed;
for _____,
but behold, an outcry!



Just like the master of the vineyard, God was looking for the "good fruit" of justice and righteousness in his people. But what came out of their hearts were the "wild grapes" of bloodshed and rebellion. **Isaiah 5** isn't really talking about a vineyard and grapes! It's a "word picture"—a parable—to help us see and understand a much more important truth.

Centuries later, Jesus had made his "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem (Matt 21:1-11), cleansed the temple (21:12-17), and had his authority challenged by the chief priests and elders of the people (21:23-27). In **Matthew 21:28**, he asked a simple question: "What do you think?" and launched into a series of parables. Among them...

- ◆ The parable of the two _____ (21:28-32)
- ◆ The parable of the wicked _____ (21:33-46)

What did Jesus mean? What was his point? Why does it matter? **Let's talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

In simplest terms, how would you summarize what God was communicating in [Isaiah 5:1-7](#)?

In your own words, what was Jesus really getting at in [Matthew 21:28-46](#)? Do you see a connection to [Isaiah 5](#)?

What good signs of growth and fruit—the sort of fruit God has been looking for all along—can be seen, even in [Matthew 21](#)?

What do you think Jesus meant by the warning in [Matthew 21:43-44](#)?

How had the chief priests and elders of the people slipped so hard and far? We'll dive deeper into more of the parables that might help us with that question soon, but for now, consider what we find in:

◆ "If this man were a prophet, he would have known what sort of woman this is..."
([Luke 7:36-40](#))

◆ "This man receives sinners and eats with them..." ([Luke 15:1-3](#))

How do these glimpses from the gospels help us understand what Jesus was really upset about in [Matthew 21:31-32](#)?

What do we need to see and understand from these pictures of the deep, ancient roots of the LORD's vineyard?