



Times of Worship

Sunday Bible Classes:	9am
Sunday AM Worship:	10am
Sunday PM Worship:	5pm
Wednesday Bible Study:	7pm

Join us Online

Church Website:

<https://www.westfayettechurchofchrist.com/>

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGckN8D9NwwX3KUuQ4GRKyA>

Interested in a Bible Study?

Please send an email to patcawthon@gmail.com

Evangelist

Patrick Cawthon

Sour Grapes

Isaiah 5 tells the story of God's vineyard. In **verses 1-2** Isaiah describes all the work God did to make sure His vineyard produced good grapes. His vineyard was on a fertile hill, he dug it all around, he removed its stones, he planted it with the best vine, he built a tower in the middle of it, and cut out a wine press. After all this work, "He expected it to produce good grapes, but it produced only worthless ones." (2)

In **verses 3-4**, God asks Judah to judge between Him and His vineyard. What else could God have done for his vineyard to give it the best chance at producing good grapes? The answer is pretty easy to answer - "God, you have done everything you could. The fault is not with you but with the grapes."

In **verses 5-6** God tells what He is going to do with His vineyard. He is going to remove its hedge, break down its wall, lay it waste, make sure no work is done to help it, and charge the clouds to rain no rain on it (only God could do that). Since the fault was with the vine and it could not produce any good grapes, God will punish the vineyard He put all that work in trying to make sure it would flourish.

In **verse 7**, God tells us the point of this story. Surprise, God is not describing a literal vineyard. He says, "The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel and the men of Judah His delightful plant. Thus he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress." In other words, God described (via the vineyard) the story of His people's spiritual failure. God did everything He could to make sure they were going to succeed but somehow they found a way to still be wicked. Instead of making sure

Week of July 2

Attendance

- ♦ **AM Service** - 63
- ♦ **PM Service** - 38
- ♦ **Wednesday** - 40

Contribution

- ♦ Weekly Budget \$2,400
- ♦ Contribution - \$3,277

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

- ♦ Logan McCoy (7/13)
- ♦ Minnie Morman (7/15)
- ♦ Harold and Julia (7/15)
- ♦ Marlene Pittman (7/21)
- ♦ Ronnie Rushing (7/21)
- ♦ Wanda Blurton (7/24)
- ♦ Ken Pittman (7/25)

Calendar Items

Song Learning Class on Sunday
July 9 at 4pm at the building

Women's Bible Study on
Tuesday at the building at 11a

Men's Meeting on the July 23 at
4pm at the building

Today's Lessons

- ♦ **AM Sermon** - The Schemes of the Devil
- ♦ **PM Sermon** - 2 Samuel 23

justice is served, they went after bloodshed. Instead of helping each other, God heard the cries of distress from those who were supposed to be treated with compassion.

This parable needs to be seen as a great warning on Israel and Judah as well. Remember the end of the story where God decides to destroy His vineyard because it was producing "worthless ones"? If they don't repent and do what's right, God will punish them and that's exactly what He had to do. For Israel, He used Assyria to destroy and then a little over a hundred years later God used Babylon to destroy Judah.

The rest of the chapter (8-30) describes the different "sour grapes" Israel and Judah have produced. God says "woe" towards His people six different times in this chapter signifying how they were not living according to His commandments. I strongly encourage you to read Isaiah 5 to see the specifics of the sour grapes of Israel.

In **James 1:21-25** we are given the steps of how to correctly read God's word. First, put aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness. Secondly, receive the word implanted in humility. Thirdly, put what you learn into action - be a doer of the word.

As you study the rest of Isaiah 5, our job as readers is to make sure we are not acting like a sour grape. We need to make sure we are not being greedy (8-10), pursuing strong drink (11-12, 22), staying humble (15), taunt God as if He is not going to punish (18-19), call evil good and good evil (20), wise in our own eyes (21), taking bribes (23), or rejecting the law of the Lord (24).

The last part of this great chapter is showing the punishment from God to those who participate in the activities of the sour grapes. This chapter should humble us and help us to make sure we are living a righteous life before God. God set up Israel and Judah to succeed but they despised God's blessings and lived a life of sin and selfishness.

How much more has God blessed us today?! We are under the new and better covenant of Christ. He has given us His Spirit and shown us how to live through His Son. We have God's word so readily available to us to study and meditate on. We have no excuse but to succeed and flourish as God's vineyard. Are we producing fruit for the Lord? If not, God will cut down the branch and throw it into the fire (**John 15**).

Patrick