



The Lord's Sorrowful Love Song

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Read: Isaiah 5:1-7

What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? Isaiah 5:4

Music moves people. A song can make you want to dance, or cheer (like a jock jam in your school gym), or cry (like a song about love and loss and a broken heart). Music moves people. In Isaiah 5, we get to hear a song from the Lord himself. It's a love song about his "vineyard," but with a sad twist. Listen to what made the Lord's song so sad.

The Lord had set his vineyard up for success. He planted it in a fertile place. He cleared out the stones, planted good vines, and built a watchtower. He even made a place to press the grapes. Those vines needed nothing more. The expectation was for those vines to do the only thing that grapevines do: produce fruit. The Lord looked for good grapes. Instead, he found bad ones.

Isaiah tells us what the song means: the vineyard was God's people, Israel. God had cared for them, but instead of doing what was right, they hurt others. This song isn't about a bad grape harvest; this song is about God's broken heart because his people wouldn't love him back.

We aren't Old Testament Israelites, but hasn't our God given us everything we need for body and soul, too? We must confront the "elephant in the vineyard," and ask: When have I failed to love God or treat others as he wants me to? The Lord has every right to call our sin what it is. He has the right to sing a sad lament.

Thank God, this is not the end of the song! The solo voice of Jesus sings another stanza. He sings the song of our salvation—how he carried all our bad fruit or lack of fruit. He carried our pride about any of our good fruit to the cross. He died to forgive us and rose on Easter—that's music to our ears!

As we hear the song of our Savior, what he has done, the Holy Spirit grows faith in us and helps us show his love to others. That is a song worth singing!

Questions to Consider

- What's your favorite happy song? Sad song?
- What fruit did the owner hope to find on his vines? What did he find instead?
- Name two things the owner did to care for his vineyard.
- Name two things Christians can do to care for their faith.
- Isaiah says God looked for justice but found people hurting one another (verse 7). Where might you see that kind of difference between what God wants and what people do today?
- Why can you admit your "bad fruit" honestly to God? How does Jesus' death and resurrection change what you want to do next?