“My Beloved’s Vineyard”

**Isa. 5:1-7; Matt. 21:33-46**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 1/9/22)

 (Q1) Our Father in Heaven is a really good gardener. He will do whatever it takes for His garden to bear good fruit. His garden grows when His Kingdom spreads. God will do whatever it takes, including the drastic pruning by invading nations, to make His garden bear fruit (read Isa. 5:1-7). By God’s sovereign hand His vineyard came to be. But the people He put in charge were worse than lazy bums… They were rebellious and refused to obey the One who wanted His vineyard to grow, to spread His Kingdom. When those He placed in charge didn’t do their job, there were repercussions for their disobedience (see Isa. 5:7). After this ordained destruction, there was nothing left in the garden but a stump. But from that stump, a shoot (of Jesse) would spring forth: Jesus!

 Now read Matt. 21:33-46. In this parable, Jesus uses the same imagery of the vineyard. With the removal of the wretched and corrupt leaders, the True Vine will prosper (Matt. 21:43). (Q2) Jesus put an end to the Mosaic system with His once-for-all sacrifice. The Pharisees didn’t want to give up their power, but there was a New Covenant on the way. Even the Hebrews of old scoffed at, beat, stoned, and killed the prophets sent to warn them. When God sent His own Son (see Matt. 21:37), they despised, rejected, and killed Him (see also Isa. 53:3). The death of the Landowner’s Son became a blessing for all the nations (Rev. 5:9). The old system is gone; God has given over the vineyard to us, His church (Eph. 1:18). How great an inheritance is that!

 The church is grown by God’s power, not by man’s power (1Cor. 3:6-7). In Matt. 21:31-32, Jesus remarked that God often chooses the outcasts, the dregs of society to be His fruit. They have ears to hear. They KNOW they need salvation. The ones He has chosen (1Peter 2:9-10) are a holy nation, who will in turn produce more fruit. (Q3) That nation is us, the church. We are part of a Kingdom that will endure forever (Dan. 2:44). The Pharisees knew without a doubt that they were the vineyard workers who were being kicked out (Matt. 21:45). They wanted to seize Jesus, but they were scared of the people (who knew that Jesus was a prophet). God, the ultimate Master Gardener, is in control.

 The Lord **WILL** have his fruitful vineyard. This vineyard (the church) requires careful preparation (Q4) to be the bride for His Son. This vineyard is an inheritance for His Son’s possession. The mission of this vineyard is to see the glory of God spread across this planet, making disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20). Is that your mission? (Q5) (Q6) (Q7)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What makes a garden produce abundantly?
2. What would **YOU** do with those rebellious vine-growers?
3. What is this fruit?
4. What kind of preparation does the bride make for Jesus?
5. Do you think God would prune even you to bring about His harvest? What might that look like?
6. Are you producing His desired fruit in your Christian walk? Do you need any changes? Any reminders?
7. Read Matt. 21:42 & 44, as well as Ps. 118:22 & 26. Who is this stone? If you fall on the stone, who wins? If the stone falls on you, who wins? Therefore, what should be your relationship with the stone?

 “Standing on the Promises” (Russell Carter)

1

 Standing on the promises of Christ my King,

Through eternal ages let His praises ring,

Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,

 Standing on the promises of God.

(chorus)

 Standing, standing,

Standing on the promises of God my Savior;

Standing, standing,

 I’m standing on the promises of God.

2

 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,

When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,

By the living Word of God I shall prevail,

 Standing on the promises of God.

3

 Standing on the promises I now can see

Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;

Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,

 Standing on the promises of God.

4

 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,

Bound to Him eternally by love’s strong cord,

Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,

 Standing on the promises of God.

5

 Standing on the promises I shall not fall,

List’ning every moment to the Spirit’s call.

Resting in my Savior as my All in all,

 Standing on the promises of God.