

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

God Goes Looking for
Fruit

Speaker:

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Date:

November 22, 2020

Scriptures:

Isaiah 5

Theme: If we are established in the Lord we will show it.

Introduction: In Matthew 21, Jesus cursed a fig tree that was not bearing fruit. Since the fig tree was a symbol for Israel, Jesus was symbolically cursing Israel for their failure to bear the fruit of faith. God requires his people to bear fruit keeping with faith and repentance. In Isaiah 6, the prophet is warning Israel that if they don't change, the consequences of their rebellion will be coming.

We can understand this through 3 phrases of Israel's experience:

1. Established in grace (1-7)

Isaiah tells us a story of a vinedresser who had invested in his vineyard, only to have it yield bad wine.

He likens that vineyard to Israel. Though the Lord had invested in them, they presumed upon his grace and were failing to yield good works.

Though they had been established in grace and professed to be his people, they were not living for him.

2. Bracing for judgment (24-30)

Because of Israel's presumption and neglect, God will judge them.

Three themes come clear in this judgment: 1) God's people must have integrity; 2) God's judgment is not his final word; and, 3) God is patient. Because of God's patience, he is giving his people almost 150 years' warning.

3. Learning from laments (8-23)

Isaiah lists 6 woes, 6 laments at the lack of fruit in Israel.

First, he laments the wealthy who keep acquiring land and are giving themselves over to the pursuit of ever-more wealth.

Second, he laments those who are engaging in escapism, as they run away from reality. They are endlessly pursuing pleasure as a distraction from reality.

Laments 3-6 concern those who are less focused on God's glory and therefore have turn to other matters for significance. Rather than embrace their roles and responsibilities, they have pursued excellence and mastery in trivialities.

Questions:

1. How has God established you in his grace? Are you mature, or immature, in godly character?
2. How has God used discipline to produce godly fruit in you? Are you currently living a double life?
3. What are you investing your life in? Do your priorities reflect God's?