

CHURCH

Sunday School lesson

Song of the Vineyard
Isaiah 5:1-7

Our studies for this winter quarter are in the book of Isaiah. We are presently in a unit study under the heading "The Messianic Hope." The scripture given for today's lesson is in the fifth chapter of Isaiah.

In last week's lesson, taken from the first chapter, God, through His spokesman Isaiah, stated the case which He had against Israel. It was indeed a scathing denunciation.

Do we see a parallel in the way people lived in the day of Isaiah, some 700 to 750 years BC, and the way the population of the world lives today? A great segment of the people live as though there will be no tomorrow, no thought for the future, nor that there will be a day of reckoning when man will be judged.

Billy Graham said recently on one of his telecasts that one world could sum up the attitude of the bulk of society and that word is "fear."

Recent news stories indicate that there is a scramble in the world for power, for wealth and for control of

nations of people, on a scale that the world has not known before. It's insidious in nature and seems to disregard the very existence of God.

The first 39 chapters of Isaiah describe to us God's attitude towards an errant people. These were His chosen people and they were guilty of sin, idolatry and disobedience. It is necessary for people to keep in mind that the God who uttered these words in Isaiah's day is the same God who rules the universe today.

He has not changed. The scriptures say that "though heaven and earth shall pass away, His Word will stand forever." God still pleads with people today to lead righteous lives just as He did with the Israelite nation.

A Love Song
With a Sad Ending
Isaiah 5:1-2

The vineyard spoken of in these verses is the nation of Israel. He likens the vineyard as set in a very fruitful land, planted with the choicest plants and well cared for. It should have produced the best of grapes but it did not.

It brought forth wild grapes, small and harsh flavored. Why is this? Why had Israel not brought forth the resulant produce that God had intended for them?

God had chosen this people and brought them out of Egyptian slavery, had given them Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey, cared for them daily, giving them security from pagan nations, and had given them inspired leaders.

But, alas, she was sinful and disobedient, and, except for times, was unproductive for the Lord. God was distraught with her.

The Call For a Verdict
Isaiah 5:3-4

These verses pose a question. What went wrong? "Why Israel, what could I have done more for you than I have done?" God is calling on the inhabitants of Israel to judge His actions.

Wher in does the guilt lie? The vineyard brought forth wild grapes when it was destined to produce good grapes. That's the case, it has been

presented and it is now time for a verdict. People cannot continually lead sinful lives with impunity, and without consequences.

The Deplorable Consequence
Isaiah 5:5-7

Read these verses for the full story. Israel has gone too far. God has given the people ample opportunity to repent and change their ways, for He is a merciful and forgiving God.

So in these verses the message ends with stark reality for those who will not repent and who scorn God's offer of forgiveness — they must endure the consequences.

The vineyard (Israel) would be ruined, laid waste. The story is sad for the situation could have been reversed had the people been so inclined. In another time in Israel's history, the people of Judah asked what it was that God wanted from them.

The prophet Micah gave the answer in a clear and concise manner. What God wants from His people is for them to live justly, to have mercy, and to walk humbly before their God.

A word from . . . Mt. Sinai

I have stopped making New Year's resolutions, well at least until I finish with 83's, 82's and 81's.

It is good to set goals. God often calls for us to remember the past. It is foundation for the present. If the decisions you made in the past have kept you from God's blessings, perhaps you should resolve to understand God's will for your life. Learning God's will, will come most easily by prayer and Bible study. We must develop a communication with God. Also, we must develop a communication with God. Also, we must study what God expects from us in Christian lifestyle.

Being in God's will is like being on vacation and getting paid too. It is not uncommon to receive a bonus when you least expect and need it most.

Seek God's will for your life this year. If I can be any help please call.

Answer last week, Gen. 25:1. When did God change Abram's name to Abraham?

George Wilmore, Pastor
Mt. Sinai
So. Baptist Church

Governor proclaims 1984 as bicentennial for Methodists

North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt Jr. will issue a proclamation in the old Senate Chamber of the Capitol in Raleigh at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, declaring 1984 as the bicentennial year of Methodism in the Tar Heel state.

Bishop William R. Cannon, resident bishop of the Raleigh area of the United Methodist Church, will represent Methodist in North Carolina during the ceremony. Other Methodist officials will attend the ceremony.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in America on Dec. 24, 1784, in Baltimore, Md. under a plan by John Wesley for ordaining preachers. The first annual conference of a church related to the Wesley tradition was held in North Carolina in 1785.

Five churches in the Methodist/Wesley tradition have joined to form the Pan-Methodist Group for celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first denomination to be organized in America.

The five denominations are the United Methodist Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the Free Methodist Church of North America.

The five churches have an inclusive membership of 14 million with the United Methodist having the largest membership with 10 million.

Methodists in North Carolina number over 600,000 who worship in

over 3,000 congregations. United Methodists number approximately 500,000 in North Carolina. African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, and Christian Methodist Episcopal members number over 100,000.

North Carolina is divided into two conferences of the United Methodist Church, the North Carolina Con-

ference and the Western North Carolina Conference.

The North Carolina Conference, with offices in Raleigh, consists of 56 eastern North Carolina counties with 845 churches and about 213,000 members. The Western North Carolina Conference, with offices in Charlotte, consists of 44 western counties with 1,165 churches and about 277,000 members.

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For Your Information

Dear friends,

The burden of making funeral arrangements during the stress of bereavement can overwhelm a grieving widow.

Relief from this chore can be provided by prearranging the funeral service. Either a modest or an elaborate funeral can be specified. A trust fund, earning interest to keep pace with inflation, can be set up with a local bank or savings & loan. We offer to explain the procedures at Swindell Funeral Home.

Respectfully,
Marian Sue Dell

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NOTICE

All property subject to Ad Valorem Taxation shall be listed annually as prescribed by law.

The regular listing period will begin on Tuesday, January 3, 1984 and end on Tuesday, January 31, 1984.

List during the regular listing period and save ten per cent penalty.

Belvidere Township
Marie Byrum, List Taker
Belvidere Community Building

Hertford Township
Oras Winslow, List Taker
Courthouse, Hertford

Bethel Township
Mrs. Charles Ward, List Taker
C.R. Ward's Store

Parkville Township
Anna Newbern, List Taker
Winfall Community Building

Dates & Times for these Townships are:

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	3 8:30-5:00	4 8:30-5:00	5 8:30-5:00	6 8:30-5:00	7 8:30-1:00
		11 8:30-5:00	12 8:30-5:00	13 8:30-5:00	14 8:30-1:00
		18 8:30-5:00	19 8:30-5:00	20 8:30-5:00	21 8:30-1:00
		25 8:30-5:00	26 8:30-5:00	27 8:30-5:00	28 8:30-1:00
30 8:30-5:00	31 8:30-5:00				

NEW HOPE TOWNSHIP

Melvin Eure, List Taker
Durants Neck Fire Dept. (DN FD)
Inter-County Fire Dept. (ICFD)

NOTE: Listing at 2 places.

DATES AND TIMES FOR THE NEW HOPE TOWNSHIP ARE:

January					
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				6-DNFD 9:00-5:00	7-DNFD 9:00-5:00
			12-DNFD 9:00-5:00	13-DNFD 9:00-5:00	14-DNFD 9:00-5:00
			19-DNFD 9:00-5:00	20-DNFD 9:00-5:00	21-DNFD 9:00-5:00
		25-ICFD 9:00-5:00	26-ICFD 9:00-5:00	27-ICFD 9:00-5:00	28-ICFD 9:00-5:00
30-ICFD 4:30-9:30	31-ICFD 4:30-9:30				

Machinery Act of 1971, G.S. 105-308, duty to list; penalty for failure

Every person in whose name any property is to be listed under the terms of this sub-chapter shall list the property with the tax supervisor or proper list taker within the time allowed by law on an abstract setting forth the information required by this sub-chapter.

In addition to all other penalties prescribed by law, any person whose duty it is to list any property who willfully fails or refuses to list the same within the time prescribed by law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment not to exceed six months. The failure to list shall be prima facie evidence that the failure was willful.

Any person who removes or conceals property for the purpose of evading taxation or who aids or abets the removal or concealment of property for the purpose of evading taxation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment not to exceed six months.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED PERSONS

G.S. 105-277.1 excludes from property taxes the first eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,500) in assessed value of certain property owned by North Carolina residents aged 65 or older or totally and permanently disabled who disposable income does not exceed nine thousand dollars (\$9,000). The exclusion covers real property occupied by the owner as his or her permanent residence and/or household personal property used by the owner in connection with his or her permanent residence. Disposable income includes all moneys received other than gifts or inheritances receive from a spouse, lineal ancestors, or lineal descendants.

KEITH W. HASKETT

Perquimans County Tax
Supervisor