

“Wild Grapes”

Isaiah 5:1-7

Introduction:

- A. God was disappointed with Judah's “wild grapes” (v. 4).
 - 1. Had given her special care. (vv. 2-4).
 - 2. Would punish her. (vv. 5-6).
 - 3. Would preserve remnant.
- B. God's people have produced “wild grapes” in various **periods** of history.

Discussion:

I. The First Century.

- A. *Early Disciples.*
 - 1. Judas Iscariot.
 - a. One of chosen twelve (John 6:70-71).
 - b. Betrayed Lord with kiss—a sign of affection and loyalty.
 - 2. Many early disciples. (John 6:26, 66).
- B. *Early Church.*
 - 1. Received tender care.
 - a. Established with power. (Mk. 9:1; Acts 2)
 - b. Purchased it with His blood. (Acts 20:28).
 - c. Given perfect guidance. (Eph. 2:20-3:3-5; 2 Pet. 1:3).
 - d. Given simple but effective organization. (Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Pet. 5:2).
 - e. Given advance warning of dangers. (Acts 20:29-30).
 - 2. Disappointing results.
 - a. Catholicism.
 - (1) Early seeds. (2 Thess. 2:7 cf. NIV)
 - (2) Elders involved. (Acts 20:29-30)
 - b. General sectarianism.

II. “Restoration Movement” Of The 1800's.

- A. *Great men pointed men back to Bible* (J. O’Kelly, B. Stone, Campbells)
- B. *Produced “wild grapes” by mid-century.*
 - 1. ACMS (later UCMS) in 1849.
 - 2. Instrumental music in 1859.
 - 3. Majority to “Christian Church”

III. “The Issues” From 1950-1970.

- A. *Church had prospered again after “Society-Music” split.*
- B. *Church again produced “wild grapes” of sectarianism.*
 - 1. Organizational departures — institutions & sponsoring churches.
 - 2. Operational departures:
 - a. Corrupt work — Social and recreational ministries.
 - b. Corrupt worship — Chorus' etc.

IV. Today.

- A. *“Conservative” Church has prospered since 50's.*
- B. *“Conservative” brethren producing “wild grapes”.*
 - 1. Marriage-Divorce.
 - 2. Shift toward pop-psychology in preaching (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
 - 3. Women’s movement.
 - 4. Spiritual pacifism.
 - 5. Splintering in factions over trivial matters.

Conclusion:

- A. Can keep from being “wild grapes” by restricting self to the authorized.
- B. Can keep from being “wild grapes” by faithful service. (Rev. 2:10; Tit. 2:11,12).