

SOUR GRAPES

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CPC, April 5, A.D. 2009

Sour Grapes Grow from Rotting Roots

Introduction: The Palm Sunday connection—*Luke 19.37 ff., Mat 21.20 ff.*

ONE: God plants with a purpose: *our fruit is to bless him & the nations.*
5.1-7

TWO: God disciplines with a purpose: *his providence, justice & righteousness will be shown through his people.* **5.8-30, espec. 16**

When we live for 1st creation achievements/gains **5.8-10**

When we live for 1st creation pleasures/satisfactions **5.11-12**

God's judgment takes away satisfactions (exile) **5.13**

God's judgment takes away gains: death's appetite triumphs **5.14-17**

YHWH will be exalted in justice and shown holy in righteousness! **5.16**

When we pursue sin **5.18-19**

When we justify sin **5.20**

When we think ourselves wise and shrewd **5.21**

When we are drunk with our wealth & power & defraud the weak **5.22-23**

God's judgment exposes our weak roots and we wither **5.24**

God's answers our dare (5.19a) & anoints our foes against us **5.25-30**

Application: **If you've gone sour on life and on Jesus do you have temporary blindness or are you growing from rotting roots** (see Q4 below)?

Interact with Isaiah 5 with these thoughts/questions:

1. Look at Luke 13.6-9. What parallels do you see with Isaiah 5.1-7?
2. So much gospel preaching focuses centrally on God's offer of forgiveness in Christ, how can this passage help us see that God creates us and saves/redeems/forgives us with a clear purpose (Compare Mat 21.43)?
3. In what ways are churches and believers in the 21st century tempted to get caught up in the rebellions of Isa 5.8-30? What can the church expect from God because of this?
4. How can Peter's words in 2 Pet 1.5-11 help us discern whether or not we are truly rooted in Christ and merely blind (2.9) or still have rotting roots?