

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**Shame
On The
Wicked**

Isaiah 5

Lesson Ten

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

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Shame on the Wicked

Chapter five begins with a song. Read Isaiah 5:1-7. It may begin like a love song, and Isaiah is singing to God's chosen people, as we will discover at the end of the song. However, it is different from other love songs in the Bible. Probably Isaiah chose a day during one of the feasts, maybe the Feast of Tabernacles when the people gathered to celebrate the harvest. He sings a song to capture the attention of the people. And it begins with a great picture. A farmer chooses a hill on which there is a lot of fertile soil. He uses his hoe to turn over and soften the soil. He removes all the rocks so that the field is perfect for planting. He chooses the best vines available. He invests in permanent structures: a watchtower to be used to protect the field from thieves, and even digs a vat for pressing the juice out of the grapes. This is as good a field as one could imagine. It is a beautiful vineyard.

But, something terrible happens. This perfect field produced "bitter fruit." Those words could also be translated "stinking fruit." What a great disappointment.

Isaiah then asks his listeners for their judgment. "What should happen to this field." Not waiting for their answer, the field is declared useless, the protecting wall...usually a hedge...will be broken down and the animals will trample it, and the thorn bushes and weeds will strangle the grape vines. It will be worthless with no hope of bearing fruit. God even said that He would forbid the clouds from sending rain on it.

Then the people are told, maybe even surprised to hear, that the vineyard is Israel and that where God had expected justice (people dealing fairly with one another), He saw fighting and shedding of blood. Where God expected to see righteousness (people being good and doing good), He heard only the moans of people who were victims of unrighteousness.

Then the prophet pronounces God's "Shame on You." Six times He said, "Woe to those..." First, He said shame on the land-grabbers. (V. 8) He said you are building houses and taking over large portions of land. In the end you will have a lot of empty houses and your crops will fail.

Second, He said shame on those who drink too much. (V. 11) They drink from early in the morning until late at night. The party all the time. And, they are so drunk and so busy partying that they don't pay any attention to God and His work. The arrogant will

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be brought down. God will bring justice, where they have failed. That kind of living will be punished and Israel will be captured and taken into exile in foreign lands. And all the lands gathered by the rich will become pasture land for wild sheep. They will feed around the ruins of the great houses.

Third, He paints an interesting picture. (V. 18) It is a movie of people who are tied to their sins and they drag them around behind them. They make a show of their evil pulling it around like you would a wagon...get the picture? All your evil piled in a "Radio Flyer" red wagon. And, these people keep challenging God to show up and put on a skit for them. They want God to submit His plan for their approval.

Fourth, He shames those who have lost the ability to tell right from wrong.. (V. 20) When you point out a car they will say, "No, that's a bus." Or when you point out a door they will say, "No, that's a window." They are so confused that they don't know good from bad, evil from righteousness. How very much like some people today who say that right is only right if I say it is. They say what is right and good for you is not right and good for me.

Fifth, He declares shame on the "wise men." They have set themselves up as know-it-alls. (V.21) They don't want God to tell them anything. They think they are smarter than God. What they have become is world-class fools.

Sixth and finally, we have a double "Shame on you!" (V. 22, 23) He first mentions those who become skilled at mixing alcoholic drinks. He calls them champions of mixed drinks. They are heroes of drinking wine. Shame on them they help with the sin of those in verse eleven. He also shames those who bribe judges to get a "not guilty" verdict. So, justice is a joke.

The final verses of this chapter (24-30) picture God whistling to get the attention of a foreign nation (many think that this is Assyria). God then uses that nation to bring judgment on Israel for all the evil of which they are accused.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: "But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by His justice, and the holy God will show Himself holy by His righteousness." Isaiah 5:16

Lesson Goal: To help students see how God views our sin.

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Student Worksheet

Shame on the Wicked—Isaiah 5

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. What is the picture Isaiah sings of in the first part of chapter five
2. What kind of fruit did the perfect vineyard produce?
3. Who does the vineyard represent?
4. What are the six “shame on you(s)” in this chapter?

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How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.