# Isaiah 5

“To appreciate the solution, we must understand the problem.” Do you agree/disagree with this?

## Listen

Read Isaiah 5:1-7

1. What is God singing about? Bear in mind the NRSV’s “wild grapes” isn’t a great translation. It’s literally ‘rotten’ or as Alec Motyer puts it “Stink-fruit!”
2. Why is the vineyard planter’s conclusion logical?
3. Who is it a picture of?

V1-7 are the song, and v8-end are God’s pronouncement of judgement and woe.

1. Read v8-12.
   1. What is God’s problem with the people?
   2. What are they doing?
   3. Can you see any parallels in current society?
2. Read v13-17.
   1. What is God’s judgement?
   2. What do we learn of his character here?
   3. Why are his actions right?
3. Read v18-23.
   1. What are the people doing?
   2. How is v20 the logical next step from the apathy of earlier verses?
   3. Can you see any parallels in current society?
4. Read v24-30
   1. What is God’s judgement?
   2. Why is it right?
   3. Why is it sobering?

## Make it real

1. There is no hope in this passage is there! How do passages like this make you feel?
   1. About yourself
   2. About your nonbelieving loved ones?
2. How is v20 being lived out in our anti-Christian culture?
3. Why is it good for us to understand the problem in order to appreciate the solution?
4. How would you explain the concept of judgement to a non-believer?
5. Having now seen the darkness to which we have fallen, read aloud together 9:2-7. How do you see this now considering today’s study?

## Prayer ideas

* Praise God for his holiness, and his perfect justice
* Repent of our sinfulness.
* Thank Jesus for saving us.
* Pray for God’s help to speak truth in love to our world. Particularly pray for our church outreach events coming up at Christmas.