

What Kind of Grape Are You ?

Pastor Gary Evensen

pastor@njupc.org

¹Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: ²And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. ⁴What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? ⁵And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: ⁶And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet Isaiah brings forth a story of a vineyard, it's a parable much as Jesus used when He walked the Earth and taught the people.

He speaks of a vineyard that has a hedge around it

A vineyard that is kept up well and has a wall around it

A vineyard that has been digged up, the weeds pulled out

A vineyard that is well pruned

And a vineyard that is well watered...

And he went on to tell us that Israel and Judah is his pleasant plant

But He looked for judgment, but found oppression

He looked for righteousness but found a cry for help!

And because of that He pronounced judgment on his vineyard..

But I'm going to break it down to a more personal realm today..

The life of each child of God is a type of a vineyard that the Lord works in..

As a church body, we are considered a vineyard, but as an individual child of God we are part of a greater vineyard that's out there.

Just because you look around today and don't see many people, don't think that your not part of a greater vineyard

Jesus said in John 15:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:15

We are part of a greater vine, of a greater purpose of God

But we can also break it down to our own church vineyard and yes, our own personal vineyard, which would be considered our immediate family

And this is why I pose the question today, **What Kind of Grape Are You?**

I want you to look at Isaiah 5:1-2 again;

My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: ²And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes

I would like you to notice 6 things about the vineyard;

- 1 – It was planted on a fruitful hill
- 2 – He fenced it in
- 3 – He gathered out the stones
- 4 - He planted the choicest vine
- 5 – He built a tower in it
- 6 – He made a winepress in it

It was planted on a fruitful hill

Although it is a old testament parable I would like to relate it to the new testament church, because not only did prophecies and parables of the Old Testament apply to the then and there, the Word of God is so powerful many of those prophecies and parables can be applied to the New Testament church.

That fruitful hill where the vineyard was planted was on none other that Mount Calvary, where Jesus was crucified and died for our sins and the sins of all mankind

But if you've ever seen pictures of Golgotha where Jesus was crucified, it doesn't look fruitful

But believe it or not, blood is used in Organic gardening as a natural fertilizer, and It was the blood of Jesus Christ that fell on that old rocky hill of Golgotha, and through the miracle working power of God that **blood that was a natural fertilizer became a supernatural fertilizer**, and

because of that even today 2000 years later Golgotha is still spiritually a fruitful hill and the vineyard of the Lord still grows forth from hill of Calvary

Look at your faith, your faith is in existence today because Jesus dies on that hill, and on that hill faith in God sprang forth and still offers hope and inspiration today!

He fenced it in

You may not understand this but God has placed a fence and a hedge around your life

A hedge is something that holds back the full attack of the devil in your life

It is spoken of in Job 1:10 when the devil complained to God that the only reason Job loved and served him was because God had put a hedge around his life

Let me tell you even with a hedge out there the devil can still attack you from the outside but he cannot come through the hedge that God has put there

You might say Pastor my life is so messed up I've got so many problems, certainly there's no hedge in my life

To that I respond you don't know what your life would be like without the hedge that's in place now.

How many times has God spared you

From car accident's that were narrowly averted or became minor instead of major

From muggings that could have been worse than they were

From sicknesses that were caught just in the nick of time that could have been much worse than they were

From all manner of problems and struggles in Life

Because of God's hedge in your life things are not as bad as they could be!

You may say: why do things come upon me, why do things happen??

Sometimes it's because we need to grow in faith and our walk with God

Other times it's because you can be a hedge and stand in the gap and use your experience to help others hit by the tragedies of life after you have passed through your own personal valleys in life.

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge,

Ezekiel 22:30 (KJV)

When you get through your problems your going to be an encouragement to somebody else,
your going to be a blessing in some bodies life

In the midst of difficulty let God shape your life, don't come out like that wild grape he spoke of..

Flowers grow in the valley not on the mountaintop, your character will become developed through
the valleys and struggles of life..

He gathered out the stones

Let me tell you something, in the church, in the preaching, in the ministering of the word God will
remove stones from your vineyard

Jesus spoke about stony ground

*And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked
moisture.*

Luke 8:6 (KJV)

One of the great prophecies of scripture is found in the book of the prophet Ezekiel

*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the
stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within
you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (KJV)

But in order to get the stones out you have got to hear the preaching of the word of God, this is
why so many times the scripture declares in the New Testament, "*He that has an ear(s) let him
hear*"

Without an ear to hear, the rock's will never come out, and our vineyard will not prosper like it
should...

He planted the choicest vine

That choicest vine was Jesus Christ the Son of God,

Though he was flesh, he obeyed the spirit.

Jesus did not have divine flesh, he had divine spirit

And through obedience to the Spirit of the Father in him, he became the firstfruits of our salvation

In 1st Cor 15:23 Christ is referred to as the firstfruits

In John 15:5 Jesus declared ***“I am the vine, ye are the branches”***

He is that 1st vine

Acts 17:28 declares: *For in him we live, and move, and have our being;*
He is our firstfruit he is our example of what it means to live for God!

1st Peter 2:21-24 reads like this

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 2:21-24 (KJV)

He built a tower in it

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Ps 61:3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, *and* a strong tower from the enemy.

You would not need a tower if there were not attacks of the enemy, even though there's a hedge the enemy can still attack, but that name, that strong tower can defeat the attacks of the enemy,,,.

He made a winepress in it

He put a winepress in your vineyard to make new wine, that new wine in symbolic of the power of the Holy Ghost in your life

Don't cut yourself short, seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking with other tongues

It's the winepress and the power in your life

Some say it's not biblical, some say its of the devil but Jesus said in Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

And it was right after that on the day of Pentecost we saw what it meant to be filled power of the Holy Ghost.

¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

Don't doubt an experience that's in the word of God

Some get confused when they read about the Gifts of the Spirit and Paul says “***Do all Speak with Tongues***”

But Paul is not talking about the initial baptism of the Holy Ghost, he is speaking of the charisma or the gifts of the spirit given to empower a believer already filled with the spirit....

When you look into the Greek in Acts 2:38 concerning the gift of the Holy Ghost, that word gift:

G1431

ἄνῃαῦ

δο | ρεα

δο-ρεη-αηῃ

From G1435; a gratuity:—gift.

G1435

ἄῃῃῃ

δο | ρον

δοῃ-ρον

A present; specifically a sacrifice:—gift, offering.

The word gift refers to a present, a sacrifice, you can receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost because of the sacrifice of Christ on calvary!

According to the scripture in Hebrews 10:19-20 we are able to enter into the holiest of holies, the very presence of God, by a new and living way, his flesh, by his sacrifice on calvary.

When you refer to the gifts of the spirit as in 1 Corinthians 12:4, the word gift here in the Greek is:

G5486

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χηαρισμα

χηαρῃ-ισ-μαη

From G5483; a (divine) *gratuity*, that is, *deliverance* (from danger or passion); **(specifically) a (spiritual) endowment**, that is, (subjectively) religious *qualification*, or (objectively) miraculous *faculty*:—(free) gift.

The charisma is specifically a spiritual endowment, but in order to be endowed with the gifts of the spirit one must be filled with the spirit 1st

This is why Paul could say “not all speak with tongues”, because he was referring to the charisma (the endowment), not the *doron* (the sacrifice).

Let the winepress of God work in your life

What Kind of Grape Are You??