

### 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

Isaiah begins “Let me tell you about my friends vineyard” - Let me tell you about my Grandfather's:

- Behind the house he had a trellis so the vines could grow up and hang on
  - It was really an eyesore, ugly and useless if it didn't do the one thing it was planted to do – help grow grapes
  - I remember that the vine was thin and stringy, not too impressive but it grew big sweet purple grapes – perfect for wine (or grape jelly)

Isaiah begins “Let me tell you about my friend's vineyard” Isaiah says it was cultivated and nurtured -  
He finds a fertile hillside, spades the ground, clears the rocks, planted choice vines, waters it  
With a wine press – that's what the vineyard is for – **it's the destiny of the grapes to be wine**  
But vineyard yields wild grapes  
Wild grapes are small and sour – multiply when the vineyard not properly tended.  
But Isaiah's vineyard had all the care that could've been provided.

#### Israel was the vineyard.

God had taken them from the Exile, cleared the land, planted them, met all their needs.  
Gifts of life, insight, hope, ambition, imagination, they were loved – and yet NO FRUIT

#### Is the same true of us?

WE are the garden, God loves us, cares for us, blesses us with many gifts.

GOD'S EXPECTATION IS THAT WE BEAR FRUIT

Do we bear fruit? What kind? If we don't bear fruit, what happens?

(My grandfather would have cut it down, thrown it in the fire & gotten new vines)

In Isaiah God doesn't rip out the vines and throw them into the fire

God stops taking care of the vineyard – He does not prune, fertilize or weed the vineyard

God leaves the vineyard untended and THORNS are the result

The implication is that if Israel doesn't bear fruit – if WE don't bear fruit

God leaves us to our own devices

#### LISTEN

We are called “Children of God”

We are blessed with many different gifts and talents

We can use them to earn our living – and we do, and that's a good thing.

We should also use them to grow the Kingdom of God.

How are we doing that? What kind of grapes are we producing?

So – what is our fruit – **if we are to bear fruit what is it?**

**Its listed in Gal 5 describes the fruit of the HS**

Love	Joy	Peace	Patience
Kindness	Gentleness	Self Control	

NOTICE THIS: Fruit of the Spirit **IS** (note the singular – its one fruit with 7 flavors)

**Destiny of the grapes is the wine press** (its why the grapes were grown)

**Destiny of humanity is heaven** (its why WE were created)

Take a spiritual inventory this week – are these fruit in your life – **love, joy, peace - - -?**

**Then ask yourself - If not – why not**

**(SLOWLY)**