"Worthless Grapes"
Isaiah 5:1-7

C.I.T.—The LORD removes favor from unfaithful people.
C.I.S.—Maintain God's favor by being faithful to His purpose.
Purpose—For Christians to be faithful to the responsibilities and expectations God has set.
Introduction—Expectations in life=disappointments

I. ***An Anthem of Worthless Grapes*** vs. 1-6
   a. Song about an owner (beloved) and his vineyard.
   b. Investment in the Vineyard
      i. He selected the right location—fertile soil/hillside.
      ii. He prepared the ground—tilled the soil and removed stones (built the wall)
      iii. He selected the right plant—high dollar/quality grape vines
      iv. Used the stones to build a tower
      v. Chiseled out of the stone a wine vat/press, etc.
      vi. Waited the two years necessary for a crop to be harvested.
   c. Disappointment in the Vineyard
      i. The owner rightly expected his investment to return grapes.
      ii. They did not produce grapes, and were thus a disappointment compared to their expectations.
   d. Abandonment of the Vineyard
      i. The owner asks his neighbors what they would do.
         1. Was there anything else? No
         2. Whose fault was it that the vineyard produced sour grapes?
         3. The owner had done everything to put the vineyard in a position to produce and it didn't.
         4. It was the vineyard's fault.
      ii. The owner was going to abandon the vineyard.
         1. Remove protection—wall of vineyard from animals.
         2. Remove pruning—his activity of caring for the grapes—pruning and weeding the soil
         3. Remove provision—cursing the ground and taking away rain.
      iii. The vine would and could still produce grapes, but it would not benefit from the work of the owner to maximize that production.
      iv. It would be left to its own to produce—"volunteer wheat."
   e. The owner invested in the vineyard so that it would produce grapes, when it refused to produce grapes, He abandoned it.
   f. Failed expectations invite abandonment.
   g. Illus.—Paying a boy to mow the yard…
   h. Application—It does not make sense to continue to invest in something that doesn't produce.

II. ***An Application of Worthless Grapes*** vs 7
   a. Isaiah interprets the parable.
      i. The beloved is God.
      ii. The vineyard is Israel.
   b. God's Investment

i. He had given them His Word, prophets, kings, riches, the Promised Land, His presence, etc., etc., etc.
ii. They had everything they needed to produce what the Lord wanted them to produce.

c. God's Disappointment
i. The expectations were justice and righteousness.
ii. The reality was bloodshed and people crying for help, because they were being mistreated.
iii. The leaders and the nation were failing to meet God's expectations.
iv. They were disappointing God in that they were not fulfilling the purpose that God had when He invested in them.

d. God's Abandonment
i. He articulates later.
ii. It would include God removing his hand of protection, pruning, and provision from their lives.

e. Illus.—**1 Samuel 15:17-19; 22-23; 26**

f. Application
i. If this applies to the nation of Judah, could it apply to nations today?
ii. If this applies to a nation, could it apply to a church?
1. Do you think Jesus has invested in FBC Lafayette?
2. Do you think He has a purpose for that investment?
3. If we fail to fulfill those expectations, He will remove His hand/favor/blessing.
iii. If this applies to a church, could it apply to a person?
1. The LORD has invested in your salvation: creation, Christ on the cross, gospel message, etc.
2. Do you think He did this for a purpose?
3. Are you fulfilling His purposes for you?
4. If not, why should He continue to invest in you?
iv. He will not leave you nor forsake you, but He can remove His favor: protection, pruning, and provision.
v. You might be able to produce "volunteer wheat" on your own, but your life will not have the favor of God on it.
vi. Is this His fault?

Conclusion—recommitment before it is too late

1 Samuel 15:17 Samuel continued, "Although you once considered yourself unimportant, have you not become the leader of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel [18] and then sent you on a mission and said: 'Go and completely destroy the sinful Amalekites. Fight against them until you have annihilated them.' [19] So why didn't you obey the LORD? Why did you rush on the plunder and do what was evil in the LORD 's sight?"

1 Samuel 15:22 Then Samuel said: Does the LORD take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. [23] For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and

defiance is like wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.

1 Samuel 15:26 Samuel replied to Saul, "I will not return with you. Because you rejected the word of the LORD, the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."