

“Because They Had Acted Faithlessly”  
Ezekiel 15:1-8; Matthew 21:33-44

*“I will make you as a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6b)*

*“Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars. Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars and destroy their pillars.” (Hosea 10:1-2)*

*“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples” (John 15:8). “As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty” (Matthew 13:23). “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” (Romans 6:1-2). “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)*

- Ezekiel 15:1-8:
  - Israel was a vine that was to bear fruit for God’s glory.
  - The sole purpose of the vine is to bear fruit for God’s glory.
  - *“Behold, when it was whole, it was used for nothing.”*
    - Before the Northern (Assyrian) and the Southern (Babylonian) Captivities the Nation was not producing fruit. How much less fruit will they produce now that they are destroyed.
  - *“So have I given up the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”*
    - Not only were the two kingdoms taken into exile, but the city of Jerusalem and the Temple were going to be destroyed.
  - *“I will make the land desolate, because they have acted faithlessly.”*
    - God will make it clear to the surrounding nations that they have rejected God’s purpose for them.
  
- Isaiah 5:1-7:
  - *“And He looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.”*
  - *“What more was there to do for My vineyard?”*
  - *“And He looked for justice...for righteousness.”*
  
- Matthew 21:33-44:
  - The **master of the house** is God the Father.
  - The **vineyard** is the Nation of Israel.
  - The **servants** are His prophets.
  - The **son** is Jesus Christ.
  - The **tenants** are the leaders of Israel.
  - The **other tenants** are the Church.

**Announcements:**

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of January we are collecting monetary donations for Heartbeats. Heartbeats for Life is a life-affirming pregnancy resource medical center serving the people of our community with the love of Christ. You can give your monetary donations on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for Heartbeats. Or you can put your monetary donations in the container on the back table.

★**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** THIS Sunday, January 5th we are going to offer a Sunday School for all people at Legacy from 9-10am each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall to see what kind of interest there might be for teaching the Scriptures before the worship service at 10:30am. We will be studying the book of Daniel, "God's Sovereignty over Nations and Israel and the Future Millennial Age." The book of Daniel is the most comprehensive prophetic revelation of the Old Testament, giving the only total view of world history from Babylon to the second coming of Christ. There is more information about this class in the November Newsletter. Please let Elder Richard know if you are interested so he can prepare notes for each one attending. There will be coffee and donuts each Sunday for class.

★**COMMUNION:** We will be partaking of and celebrating Communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, January 5th.

★**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Men, the monthly Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, January 18th, at 7am, at the Big Apple Café — Log Pond. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Zach Adams (740)618-0739.