EPISODE 51 (SESSION 2)

1 Isaiah — Vineyard

Take a few deep breaths, and imagine with me.

A young man was given a plot of land. A small corner of the larger community to tend and till and take care of. To pass down from one generation to the next. One more beautiful image of the love he promised to his children.

What an honor. What a privilege. What a promise lay in this soil.

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Beloved this land was, and the man went to work, planting a vineyard on the most fertile of hills in the land. Preparing it with such purpose for the harvest that it would one day bring.

He went to work this land each day. Carefully crafting a hedge around it. Removing rough rocks and things from the precious dirt.

He planted a vineyard there. Over time the tree's arms grew, opening their fingers to the sky.

What a harvest these vines would bring!

He built a tower in the center. Using the bedrock of the earth he crafted a winepress, and waited anxiously for the grapes to ripen.

Day and night he cared for it… It seemed his presence itself made the vines flourish.

What a rich river of wine this would bring!

Day and night he cared for it. Pruning the branches, sifting the dirt, removing the pests. It seemed his presence itself made the vines flourish.

The time finally had come to pick the fruit from its vine. To taste their sweetness. Crush it beneath the press and breathe in its pleasant aroma as if an offering to a king—or the creator of the vineyard himself.

The man picked the first grape from the vine, holding it between his strong, calloused fingers towards the sky, blessing God for the gift, and placed it in his mouth.

His lips pursed and his eyes squeezed shut.

What should have been sweet, was unbearably sour.

He grabbed another from the vine, trying again, and still the same result.

All his careful preparation. His toil and attention and watering…

"What more can I do for my vineyard than I have already done?!" He cried as he looked at the branches, the unmoving tower, and the silent press. "They must take in the sunlight and drink the nutrients I've provided for them—and share them! Or all is lost."

What more can I do?

So much this vineyard could have been. So many this tower could have stood for. So much this winepress could have made.

The hedge was removed. The vineyard plowed. The land slowly laid bare. The soil dried up.

Perhaps the vineyards and gardens and lands that may be cultivated once again will see beyond their own vine and let their richness and sweetness—justice and compassion—be not only cultivated by the creator that planted them, but be pressed and poured for the rest of the small corner of the land they inhabit.

PRAYER

Lord of all creation,

For the land you've promised,
the garden you've given,
the vineyard you've planted,
I bless your Name.

As I work the soil, may my eyes see
the plots and people surrounding me.
And may I care for their harvest, as you care for mine.
Prune the branches, remove the weeds,
fortify the walls that hold us up.

That we may live in jubilee
together.

Amen

EPISODE 51 (SESSION 2)

THE FOUR PILLARS



BEMA Discipleship is built on four pillars; a **Four-Pillared Perspective** to help us remember **to elevate the words of God** (not ours) and help us identify the principles that we see recurring in the story of God's people.

Here are some applications for this episode echoing the ideas of the four pillars:

I

TEXT

What stands out to you from the Text that you want to carry with you as you read the prophets? What could you meditate over or memorize?

II

COMMUNITY

How does your community see the message of this prophet? Where do you see the metaphor of Isaiah 5 in your own community? Where do you seek justice and compassion?

III

DISCIPLESHIP

Who are you bringing alongside you to model a life of justice and compassion? Who has helped you see the "blood" on your own hands and challenged you to make changes to your life?

IV

WRESTLING

What are you thoughts on the multiple books of Isaiah within the larger prophetic text? What thoughts in 1 Isaiah challenge you or make you uncomfortable or curious?

Spotify

Are you a music listener?

Listen along to our BEMA Music Playlists on Spotify.

Song suggestions? Send them to bemabesorah@gmail.com.

BEMA SESSION 2

MEDITATION & PRAYER

REFLECTION, APPLICATION & IMPACT

There are three emphases that we are always thinking about in terms of application at BEMA. These may be stated explicitly at times, but often we will want you to do the work of finding ways to connect the dots to the things we are learning. Much of this is what makes the work of BEMA distinct as a ministry of Impact Campus Ministries.

CREATING A SPACE
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

True success is developing intimacy with God. In Session 1, we encountered the idea of "Creating Space for God" in our lives. We believe that ***if we do our part of creating that space, God will fill it*** *as He desires. You're already doing this as you dive into the Text and jump into a place to discuss. God will meet you in these places! Look for places the Holy Spirit can do work in and through you as you go about your everyday life.*

CONSIDERING CAMPUS
YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS

We believe that young adults are shaping the future of this world. *Jesus modeled a ministry of discipling young adults, and that approach has and will work. If you are a college student who is listening, we want this material to be directly helpful to your pursuits. If you are not a college student, we want to challenge you to come alongside one and work together.*

SACRED STATION
THEOLOGY OF WORK

This isn't only for church or Bible study; this is about what we do every day. How we do our job and how it may take advantage of or bring life to others is something God says is central to our presence in the world. Justice is very much something God cares about. Does our physical work (our 9–5 job) bring shalom or chaos? Does it exploit creation? The way we manage our employees, interact with customers or coworkers, care for our children, or create products can provide relief to others. ***The work we do every day is sacred and matters!***

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