

Isaiah 5

God's people are to be grafted in again into the olive tree. So that is what Paul says and it connects right up with these verses. And so the first part of the chapter is dealing with God's turning away from His people. They say, "We are your people. You have promised your mercy to Abraham. You have promised that you will bless thousands of generations of your people, those whom you have called, those whom you have blessed." He says, "I have spread my hands out all the day to a rebellious people, a people that provoke me to anger continually to my face, a people that sacrifice in gardens and burn incense on altars of brick; that remain among the graves and lodge in the monuments and eat swine's flesh." He names all these different things which are found among the people of God. He says, "You say you are God's people. Well, among you there are those who do these things" and then you work up to a remarkable climax. Isn't this terrible? These immoral things. Isn't this terrible, these wicked abominations, these perversions of the sacrifices, this eating swine's flesh. People actually disregarding the Mosaic law. People doing these individual deeds in their lives, isn't this terrible!" Thus he works up to a climax in Verse 5, and what a climax! How different from what the ordinary person would expect.

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 Isaiah 6

After these things have been pointed out and he's got up to these terrible things they do you reach to the climax which says, "Stand by thyself, come not near to me, for I am holier than thou." Is Christ's rebuke of the Pharisees in the New Testament something brand new, a term from the Old Testament? Here you have it right here. "Stand by yourselves." They say, "Don't come near me. I am holier than thou." These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burns all the day. Surely it is definite here that Spiritual pride is one of the <sup>very</sup> worst of sins. That thinking that one is God's peculiar pet and that He can look down on the others round about and think that he is holier than they is one of the worst <sup>sins</sup> things that a man can fall into. Actually, the person who is truly