

John 15: The True Vine

Lesson Theme: Do it With Jesus, For He is With You

Hebrews 13:5-6—

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say:

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not fear.

What can man do to me?"

John 15:1-8: Bear Much Fruit

1. God is the Creator. (John 15:1)

Genesis 1:26-28; Revelation 4:11;

*Revelation 3:14-16

*Could it be that Laodicea's biggest problem that led to their lukewarmness is they forgot God is the Creator?

2. Like a vinedresser who cultivates his vineyard, so the Father and the Son cultivate those who produce fruit to show that God is the Almighty. He takes away those who do not bear fruit for His kingdom—those who refused to believe they were branches of the True Vine. They wanted to make it their own way without their Creator. (John 15:2)

Context: Judas betraying Jesus; John 13:21-30

What was the reason? Money. Matthew 26:14-15; Matthew 6:24

3. As branches of the True Vine, understand that pruning is a part of the growing process to produce fruit. He does it because He loves you. (John 15:2-4)

Hebrews 12:3-11; Hebrews 4:1-16; Ephesians 5:25-33

4. The true disciples of Jesus Christ will bear fruit. False disciples will be cast out of the kingdom. (John 15:5-6)

Jesus is the True Prophet who bears good fruit (us). Matthew 7:15-20

5. Ask according to the will of God—His Word! (John 15:7-8)

Personal example: Courtney's children and their college choice

John 15:9-27: True Friendship

6. Jesus loves us as the Father loves Jesus. We show love for Jesus when we obey His commands. Love=obedience in the kingdom of God. (John 15:9-10)
Book of Esther: Queen Vashti vs. Queen Esther—contrast between disobedience and obedience.
Esther 1:12 (Vashti); **Esther 2:20** (Esther)
7. We will be full of joy when we obey God's commands—to love one another as Jesus loved us. We show this by laying down our lives for others. (John 15:11-14)
What **Romans 12** teaches us as followers of Christ. We will have great joy when we obey God's commands.
8. Jesus calls us "friends" because He tells us through His Word what He is doing.
(John 15:15-17)
9. The world hates followers of Christ because the world hated Jesus first. (John 15:18-25)
1 John 2:15-17
10. The Spirit of Truth is our Helper. He is with us always. We will bear witness to the world that we are Christ followers. (John 15:26-27)
Isaiah 43:10—
**"You are My witnesses," says the Lord,
"And My servant whom I have chosen,
That you may know and believe Me,
And understand that I am He.
Before Me there was no God formed,
Nor shall there be after Me.**

Conclusions:

- God has a unique and distinct purpose for your life. He created you for a reason—to use your gifts, talents, time, and resources, to bring glory to His name—showing that He alone is the Creator and you are His.
- The more we know the Word of God, the more we will be able to pray with a deeper sharpness of understanding of God's will. We will have that much more confidence to know God will do it, because it is His precise will!
- Do not forget that if you are a follower of Christ, the world hates you. Do not try to be like the world. Do not partner with the world in its method of doing things. As a citizen of heaven, follow Jesus through the Holy Spirit to shine the light of Christ into the world.