

John 15

John 15.1-11

V1 – Why do some commentators say that this is actually not a parable? They consider it more like an allegory or metaphor (with a rich Old Testament background in vine symbolism)

-Read Psalm 80:8-16, Isaiah 5.1-7, Jer. 2.21, Hosea 10.1

-What else has Jesus already called himself in the book of *John*? Good Shepherd, Light of the World, Bread of Life, Water of Life, Door of the Sheepfold

-Symbolism of "vinedresser"? One in charge, not just hired man

-Jesus: there is only one true vine

V2 – This passage is frequently used by denominational preachers to show that all denominations are fine in the eyes of God (all are branches on the one main vine)

-Jesus: the branches must be "*in me*"

-Another argument: V 5 – the apostles (disciples) were the branches, not denominations!

-If we are Christians, what is expected of us? To bear fruit and to demonstrate our faith

-What does God do to us as his branches? Prunes us

-Explain: He does things to make us better through trials, tribulations, etc.

-Any message here about "once saved, always saved"? Branches can be cut off

V3 – Jesus is not mad at the apostles (they are not about to be cut off of the vine)

-He is encouraging them with these words

V4 – How does a person not fall away from Christ? By abiding in him

-Are our good works of any value outside of Christ? No

-How we feel about Christ is not as important as obeying the commandments of Christ

V5 – Clearly stated: the disciples (not religious denominations) are the branches

V6 – Again – "*If anyone*" – he is talking about people, not churches

-The result of not abiding in Jesus? Eternal destruction

V7 – What about the believer's prayers? They will be answered

-Under what circumstances? *John 14:13-14* - "*in my name*" means in accordance with will of Jesus

V8 – What is the proof of our discipleship? Bearing fruit

-Remember *James 2* (the relationship between faith and works)

V9 – Jesus loves us as much as the Father loves him

-We are again told to abide in Jesus

-Necessary to say if "once saved, always saved"?

V10 – How do we abide in Jesus? By keeping his commandments

-Does Jesus ask us to something which he is unable to do? No, he abides in God's

commandments also

V 11 – How would this story produce joy? Knowing we are not alone, but connected to Jesus, as branches to a vine

John 15.12-17

V 12 – How did Jesus set the example for us? Dying for us – also: willing to work with the twelve apostles – he didn't give up, but set the example before them

V 13 – History occasionally tells of fathers who sacrificed their lives for their children
-How did Jesus surpass the standard set forth in v 13? He died for his enemies (*Romans 5:8-10*)

V 14 – Friendship with Jesus is based on obedience

V 15 – Where had he called them slaves? At the foot washing – *John 13:16*
-What is the difference between a slave and a friend? A friend is told our secrets, etc.

V 16 – Rare, the teacher selects his students – usually a student will select a certain teacher
-Were they predestined to be apostles? Against their will? No, their favorable disposition caused them to be selected – no one was hostile to Jesus to begin with

V 17 – Another urging that they love one another (summary verse)

John 15.18-27 – Their relationship to the world

V 18 – Does the world always hate us? Most of the time, the answer is yes (if we are truly standing up for what is right)
-When the world hates us, what consolation do we have? It hated Jesus before us
-It's not going to be anything new for us - Read Ephesians 5:11-13 – reason world hates us

V 19 – Why does the world love its own? “Misery likes company”
-Drunks like to be around drunks, gamblers like to be around gamblers, and sinners like to be around sinners
-The world hates us because we are not like the world

V 20 – When did Jesus make this statement? *John 13:16*
-If they persecute the master, you know that they will persecute his servants
-Two totally different responses from the preaching of the gospel – some will persecute us; others will obey the gospel and be saved

V 21 – The root cause of persecution is that people do not know God

V 22 – If people didn't know any better, that would be one thing, but now they know better

V 23 – Hating Jesus is, in effect, hating God

V 24 – Summary of the reason for persecution

V 25 – The Jews' conduct was unreasonable, but this is just as the Old Testament prophesied

V 26 – **When would the Holy Spirit be given to the apostles?** Sometime after Jesus left them

-**When in fact did the Holy Spirit arrive?** Ten days after the Ascension

-Notice: Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Strengthener (a provider of assistance)

-A person who helped in a legal situation

-He would instruct the court, not his client

-Notice the “Trinity” in this verse

V 27 – **Could they just relax and let the Holy Spirit do all the work?** No, the Holy Spirit was only the “Helper”

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