

Exalting the Lord Jesus through receiving His love, grace, truth and power.

Lesson # 6—The Invitation of the Lord Jesus: Receive of Me as a Branch in the Vine.

Introduction

- A. Reminder: Christianity is a Person and our relationship of grace with Him.
- B. His invitation is a section of The Farewell Discourse. John 15:1-11
 - 1. The Lord Jesus was only hours away from the Crucifixion.
 - 2. His concern was not for Himself but for His Disciples and all believers.
 - 3. He wants us to know we can live “in Him” and daily receive from Him—as the branch receives from the vine. This is a relationship of great security and comfort.

I. The Parable. John 15:1-11

- A. The Lord Jesus is the true vine—in contrast to the O.T. Israel. Ps 80:8-19; Is 5:1-7
He is the fulfillment of all the O.T. prophecies, types, symbols and anticipation.
- B. The Father is the gardener—developing His plan through the Lord Jesus and believers.
He cuts off the unfruitful branches and prunes those that bear fruit.
- C. The exhortations and explanations of “remain” (abide) are given.
- D. The purpose and promises of the relationship are described in exhortation form.

II. The Explanation of the Heart of the Parable: The Vine and the Branch Relationship.
(Believers are related to the Lord Jesus as the branch is related to the vine.)

- A. **A living relationship:** the vine and the branch share life. Jn 4:10; 5:40; 6:51; 10:10,28
- B. **An intimate relationship:** the vine and branch are “grown” together. Jn 14:20,23; 17:26
 - 1. The vine and branch are a living part of one another. The branch may be pruned but the “knot” remains as part of the vine.
 - 2. As believers we are “in Christ” and He is “in us” —a mutual indwelling. John 14:20; John 17:26; Ephesians 1:1,3,4,7; 3:17,19;
- C. **A secure relationship:** the vine supports the branch. John 6:35-40,44; 10:27-30
- D. **A gracious relationship:** the vine supplies the branch. John 4:13,14; 6:35; 7:37,38
- E. **A purposeful relationship:** the vine bears fruit through the branch. John 12:20-24; 15:16
 - 1. Fruit is the product of the vine: the life of Jesus manifest in us.
 - 2. Fruit as character 1 Cor. 13:4-8,13; Gal 5:22,23 and service Jn 4:34-38; Rom. 1:11-13
- F. **An instructive relationship:** the branch needs to remain (abide). John 15:4-9
 - 1. “Remain” (abide) is explained by the relationship of the vine and branch.
 - 2. The only “obligation” is to do what’s natural: **simply keep drinking.**
 - 3. To “abide” means **living in obedience to the Lord Jesus and His Word.** John 15:7

III. The Promises Involved in the Parable.

A. The promise of answered prayer. John 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

1. Note the high priority the Lord Jesus gave to “abiding” and to prayer.
2. His life and words remind us of the principle: **by prayer we can make a difference.**
3. The Savior has in mind the future of the Disciples and the great needs they will have. (Personal needs, family, finances, ministry, travel, protection, and martyrdom.)
 - a. The parable instructs them: He is their daily resource (as the vine to the branch) and they need only receive (abide-drink) by faith and obey Him through His Word
 - b. As they respond and follow His directions—**He will do the rest.**

B. The promise of fruitfulness. John 15:8 (See II, A, 5 above.)

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

1. The Lord Jesus knew what their thoughts and feeling would be about His directive to “evangelize the world.” Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8 (A seemingly hopeless task.)
2. He knew the Disciples would quote this promise over and over—and practice it.
 - a. He promised them success.
 - b. He reminded them they were involved in the Father’s plan and glory—to exalt Him.
 - c. He encouraged them by telling them their fruitfulness would prove to all that they were genuine believers and belonged to Him.

C. The promise of His love. John 15:9,10

1. The measure of His love: ***As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.***
2. The exhortation regarding His love: ***Now remain*** (abide-drink) ***in my love.***
3. The instruction regarding His love: ***If you obey ... you will remain (abide) in my love.***
4. The illustration regarding His love: ***Just as I have obeyed my Father's commands ...*** (Summary: Keep your eyes on Me, let Me love you, follow my directions.)

D. The promise of His joy. John 15:11

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

1. Understanding the parable (their relationship with Him) would provide a basis for continual joy. (See John 16:24; 17:13; Rom 15:13; Gal 5:22; 1 Peter 1:8)
2. The type of joy promised was ***His joy***: spiritual, constant, transforming, powerful, satisfying, rooted in His love and related to living in harmony with Him (drinking and obeying). They were instructed they could live an **effortless Christianity.**
3. They were destined for a hard life—His joy would make the difference.

