

## Episode 2-06 – The Vine and the Branches

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We continue to consider events leading up to the Lord's death. In John 15, the Lord continues His teaching to His disciples as they travel from the upper room where they had the last supper to the garden of Gethsemane. In this portion, the Lord discusses the vine and the branches.

III. John 15 Introduction.

- A. We need to remember who His audience were: His twelve disciples. Matt. 10:1. These very men were given great power!
- B. To receive them was to receive the Lord Himself! Matt. 10:40.
- C. They had authority (keys) over the kingdom of heaven itself! Matt. 16:19.
- D. Matt. 19:28. Luke 22:28-29. They have the very highest of privileges.
- E. John 20:21-23. They are sent as He was sent by the Father! They received the Holy Spirit, even to the extent of having the power of forgiving sins!
- F. Eph. 2:20. Their influence continues even to today through the books they wrote. John itself is an example of this!
- G. Rev. 21:14. Their names are written on the twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem! These were perhaps the most powerful men ever to walk the earth. They were not twelve fuddy-duddies running around in bathrobes, as they are often pictured in church dramas.

IV. John 15:1-8. The vine and the branches.

- A. V.1. The Lord is the true vine. What can we say about this figure of the vine?
  - 1. Psalm 80:8-19. Israel was a vine brought out of Egypt, and planted in the land.
  - 2. Isaiah 5:1-7. The Old Testament illustration is Israel as the vine of the Lord.
  - 3. Now, Christ reveals He is the true vine, His Father the true vinedresser.
- B. V.2. This is not talking about sinners losing salvation, but about servants removed from their positions. This very thing just happened to Judas! Prune = Greek "to cleanse." Plants are cleansed by pruning off defects. Then, they would bear more fruit. The disciples did this in Acts 2 (for example verse 41).
- C. V.3. His word had already cleansed them and made them ready to produce fruit. Psalm 119:9. The Scriptures cleanse us as well, both at salvation and afterwards.
- D. V.4. A branch separated from the vine will soon wither, die, and bear no fruit. Separated from Christ, all the disciples' power would be gone. (Again, Judas is an example of this.) This is not speaking of us, but we too must abide, rest, and trust in Him if we are to bear any fruit at all for God.

V. Conclusion: The Lord used the Old Testament illustration of Israel as the vine and altered it, revealing Himself as the vine and them as the branches. We might be tempted to apply this illustration to ourselves, but this illustration is talking about His disciples. Yet we can learn from this as well, for we too can only produce the fruit that God desires by remaining in Him. Let us do so!