



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## JOHN 15:1-17

### LESSON: MANIFESTING GOD'S LOVE —March 19, 2017

#### INTRODUCTION:

**Chapter 13** The disciples had been rebuked by Jesus for their lack of humility. They were instructed that He would soon leave them. And that one of them would betray Him. Peter began to speak out later that he would lay down his life for the Master's sake. But, Jesus rebuked him saying, *"before the cock crows, you would have denied (your Master) three times."*

**Chapter 14** Jesus brings comfort to the disciples by giving them a promise that where He's going, He will prepare a place for them. After its ready, He's coming back for them. **Thomas'** and the other disciples don't know the place or the way He's going. Jesus lets them know that **"He's the way, the truth, and the life. And no man can get to the Father except through Jesus."** Then **Philip** wanted to see the Father. The disciples were weak in their faith. Jesus exhorts them to believe that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him and the words that He speak are from the Father that dwell in Him, or just believe for the very works that they've seen Him do. Jesus encourages the disciples with these promises: (1) those that believe this, shall also do the same works and greater works because He's going to the Father. (2) Whatever they ask in Jesus' name, it will be done, that the Father would be glorified in (Him) the Son. (3) And last, the Father will send another Comforter (also called the Spirit of Truth) who will live in them forever. Although Jesus is going away, He will not leave them comforterless. Now, **Judas**, not Judas Iscariot is wondering why Jesus is only revealing Himself to them and not to the world. Jesus answers that the Father and the Son will come only to those who love and prove their love by obedience. But the Comforter who is the Holy Spirit will teach all things and bring all things to their remembrance when He comes, for these things were already told to them by Jesus. And Jesus reminds them again of His departure and speaks Peace to them; not the kind of peace the world gives. He ends with the same comforting words as the beginning of this chapter: **"Let not your heart be troubled..."** Jesus gives a warning to them that the *"prince of the world"* is coming, but he has no power over Jesus. Jesus does what the Father commands which shows His love for the Father. Now, Jesus and the disciples leave the place they were at.

#### LESSON:

#### I. COMMAND TO ABIDE - John 15:1-6

**15:1** **I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.** As we see a vine in its physical domain, it is strong and nourishment comes from it. But we are not looking at a plant, but at a Person (Jesus) in the

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spiritual. From the very beginning of this verse Jesus makes known as to who He is—"I AM." But, as we go back into the Gospel of John, He says "I AM." throughout the Book of the Gospel of John:

1. **I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE—Jh.6:35.**
2. **I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD—Jh.8:12.**
3. **I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP—Jh.10:7, 9.**
4. **I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD—Jh.10:11, 14.**
5. **I AM THE RESSURECTION AND THE LIFE—Jh.11:25.**
6. **I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE—Jh.14:6.**
7. **I AM THE TRUE VINE—Jh.15:1.**

This verse speaks completion. Jesus is not just any vine, but He is the **true** vine; the genuine vine, not false or counterfeit. In the physical, a vine is strong and nourishment comes from it. By Jesus being our true vine, He proves to be our real strength and real nourishment unifying all believers. And the Father is the husbandman or vinedresser and gardener who takes care of; looks after, watches over; prunes (cuts back), cultivates, cleans and protects what grows on the Vine.

**15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.** The branch growing from the Vine represent believers for the purpose of bearing fruit. However, the branch that doesn't bear fruit shall be removed. They have a problem bearing fruit. At a point they may began to bud and sprout, but no fruit appeared.

- Unfruitful branches didn't relate enough to Christ; didn't draw enough nourishment from Him.
- Unfruitful branches are not genuine enough to bear fruit.

However, the branch that bears fruit will be purged (cut back) in order to promote more growth; to bring forth more fruit.

**15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.** There are three ways fruitful branches are pruned or purged and cleansed.

1. Branches are cleansed by the words which Jesus has given to men, by the Word of the Lord Himself. When a man comes to the Word of God sincerely, the Word of God shows...
  - a. what he is doing and what he is not doing.
  - b. where he fails and how he fails.
  - c. the sin of commission and of omission.
2. Branches are cleansed by the mirror of the Word of God. When a man looks into the Word of God, he reflects both himself in his shortcomings and Christ in His perfection. The Word of God forces man to measure himself against Christ.

**15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.**

3. Branches are cleansed by abiding in Jesus.

"Abiding" means to dwell, continue, stay, sojourn, rest in or upon. It is being set and fixed and remaining

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there, continuing on and in, in a fixed state, condition, or being. The more the branch abides in the vine, the more nourishment a branch draws from the vine, and the more fruit it bears. Jesus is saying there is no **I** without **Me**. You can't be unattached. If you are, you're not abiding in Christ, the Vine. Just as a branch is lying on the ground without any attachment to the vine, it is lifeless and meaningless in the physical, so is it also with man on the earth, without Christ, he is lifeless and meaningless in the spiritual. Those who seek life and meaning someplace other than in Christ are doomed to failure. Jesus commands for us to abide in Him and He in us.

**15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.** Again Jesus says He is the Vine and the believers are the branches. No fruit can be produced without us abiding in Christ and He in us. In verse 2 it says we will bring forth more fruit as we are purged, and in this verse it says we will bring forth much fruit as we abide in Him, and He in us. Nothing is to be done without Christ.

**15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.** When the believer fails to abide in Christ—have a relationship with Jesus, he withers, dries up (is cast forth like a branch), his fruit or works will be judged by fire, and are burned up. Dried branches are easy to burn up. This will lead into loss of rewards.

## II. RESULT OF ABIDING – John 15:7-11

**15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.** Abiding in Christ also means constant fellowship and prayer with the Lord. The Word of God must abide in the believer. This promise assures that the believer can ask what he will and it shall be done unto him.

**15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.** This is how the Father will be glorified: by believers bearing much fruit. When men see fruit in the life of a believer...

- we see men have begun asking God for help.
- we see men have turned their minds to God.
- we see men wanting to accept God for themselves.
- we see men have desired God to save them.
- we see men acknowledging that only God's power could do such.

The bottom line is that the attached branch proves he is a disciple by bearing fruit—touching the lives of others.

**15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.** Jesus knows this, that there is such a love between the Father and Son. And we have to know that Jesus loves us that much also. That's why He's encouraging the disciples to continue and don't give up; don't break fellowship or turn back to the world and old worldly friends. Continuing in His love means His love covers us, to grow

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stronger, become and be called His disciples by doing all He does.

**15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.** There is such an obedient Spirit in the Son. It is because of the love He has for the Father. He kept the Father's commandments. That's why Jesus encourages the disciples to abide in His love. He's showing them how to be obedient; how it was that He was able to do what they saw Him do. It's because He was not defiant, but always doing good because He abided in the love of the Father. Their bond is so strong that He knew the Father will not lead Him wrongly.

**15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.** Christ's purpose speaks great volume that His joy will remain in them, for that was His joy to do the Will of His Father. Therefore the joy and glory of the disciples or believers is to do the Will of the Son. You have to go through the Son to get to the Father's good pleasure. The joy is produced in us while studying God's Word, and fulfilled through the promises made and commandments followed. Joy is that inner gladness that comes from a divine source; that springs forth from our faith that will have future rewards.

- The fellowship of the Father and His Son brings joy.
- Victory over sin, death, and hell brings joy.
- Repentance brings joy.
- The hope of glory brings joy.
- The Lord's Word, the revelations, commandments, and promises which He made brings joy.
- The commandments of Christ and the Will of God brings joy.
- Prayer brings joy.
- The presence and fellowship of believers brings joy.
- Converts brings joy.
- Hearing that others walk in the truth brings joy.
- Giving brings joy.
- Knowing our loved ones are saved brings joy.

## III. COMMAND TO LOVE – John 15:12-17

**15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.** The Lord's supreme commandment concerning love is the key in the whole chapter, especially the manifestation of us loving one another. Division will destroy a body of people quicker than any other single thing. It destroys our fellowship, our witness to the unsaved, and it destroys a human soul seeking God. Too many believers are known more for their grumbling, griping, complaining, murmuring, and division than for anything else. Nothing cuts the heart of Jesus more than such self-centered and divisive behavior.

**15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** This kind of love is not an emotional feeling, but it is the act of giving. This kind of love is giving sacrificially for others. That's

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why Jesus' commandment says *"love ye one another, as I have loved you."* Jesus set the example. He set the bar! He paid the ultimate and supreme price of love. He died and sacrificed Himself for His friends. No one can show this kind of love. It is a greater love, for it takes one laying down his life for his friends. And for us, it cannot be done without Christ.

**15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** There is a condition to being a friend in this verse, and that is doing whatsoever Jesus commands and not doing our own thing. So, one has to know Jesus' Word in order to realize that whatever He commands, it's out of love; His love for us. Therefore, whatsoever He commands, His friends follow. It is in His Word that tells men about Him; who He is. It is His roadmap; His truth that friends follow.

**15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.** The life of an earthly slave is very hard, but the life of a servant grows out of love.

*"Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."* —Ephesians 6:5-6.

Servants and slaves are used interchangeably, and now speaks of a transition from a servant to a friend. Jesus is not calling them servants anymore but friends (v.14, 15). And now whatever the Father has made known to Him, He will make known to His friends. The point is that friends relate and commune with each other, share and respond to the word of each other, rejoicing in that word or conversation they've heard, and help upon request.

**15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.** We didn't choose the Lord, but He has chosen us. It was His choice. He ordained us to go forth to bear fruit and not be stagnant, but that our fruit would remain, continue, and endure. If we remain in the work of the Lord of bearing fruit, we can ask the Father whatsoever asked in Jesus' name. Why? Because first, the Father has to **hear you ask**. Second, you have to **ask in Jesus's name**. Third, that **He may give** it to you. God wants to give to those bearing fruit that you will have more fruit and much fruit. And others will see that He has chosen you and ordained you for such. They will see that your fruit is plenteous and your fruit remains.

**15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.** Love is the conclusion of the matter. It is Jesus' command He leaves us with—love one another. It is not an option.

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Jesus is the **true** vine. He proves to be our real strength and real nourishment unifying all believers. The Father is the husbandman or vinedresser and gardener who takes care of; looks after, watches over; prunes (cuts back), cultivates, cleans and protects what grows on the Vine (**15:1**). The Branch growing from the Vine represents Believers for the purpose of bearing fruit. The branch that doesn't bear fruit shall be removed. However, the branch that bears fruit will be purged (cut back) in order to promote more growth; to bring forth more fruit (**15:2**). The Word the Lord had spoken to the disciples will make them clean (**15:3**). Jesus commands for them to abide in Him and He in them. Except the branch abide in the vine, it could not bear fruit on its own (**15:4**). The Vine and the branches are to abide in each other to bring forth more fruit (**15:5**). Not abiding causes withering, and it is then cast into the fire to be burned (**15:6**). (**15:1-6**).

But, when the branch abides in the Vine to where God's Words abide also, the believer can ask what they will and it shall be done for them (**15:7**). This is where you will see the glory of God and will begin to bear much fruit becoming Christ's disciples. The bottom line is that the attached branch proves he is a disciple by bearing fruit—touching the lives of others (**15:8**). As the Father has loved Jesus so has He loved the disciples. And they are to continue and remain in His love. (**15:9**). Living in Jesus' love will cause us to obey God's Commandments just as Jesus did (**15:10**). Christ has spoken these things to His disciples that His joy will remain in them and they continue to be full, for that was Christ's joy, to do the Will of His Father (**15:11**). (**15:7-11**).

Jesus' second commandment was for all to love one another as He has loved them (**15:12**). The greater love is laying down his life for his friends. Jesus has already set the example (**15:13**). Jesus has left a roadmap for us to follow. His Word is His truth, therefore, He is willing to give His commandments to His friends (**15:14**). He no longer calls them servants, but now that they obey His commandments, they are known as friends, for they know what the Lord does; all the Father has made known unto Him He makes known to His friends (**15:15**). God chose us and ordained us that we should go and bring forth fruit and that their fruit would remain. Whatever we ask of the Father in Jesus' name, He may give it (**15:16**). Again the commandment is to love one another (**15:17**). (**15:12-16**).