



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JOHN 15:1-17

LESSON: THE TRUE VINE — May 21, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 14:24-26 Loving Jesus is keeping His sayings, which really comes from the Father. Therefore, disobedience to the Word of Christ is also rejection to the Father. Jesus tells these truths while He's still with His disciples, but they are still truths for us today! The Father will send the Comforter—the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Name, who will teach all things, and bring all things to our remembrance of what was said by Jesus. We won't be at a loss. Trust and Obey Him because He is our truest Advocate!

CHAPTER 14:27-31 In the hour of sorrow, Jesus leaves with them His peace; a unique kind of peace, which is different from the world's peace. This peace would calm troubled and fearful hearts. He tells them again *"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* He again reminds them that He has to go away and come again. Therefore, the disciples should be glad; should rejoice that He's going back to His Father, *"for the Father is greater than He."* Why? - Because while Jesus was upon earth, He was limited physically in doing many things. He could only be in one place at one particular time. ¹But the Father does not have limits of time or space. So, in this way, the Father was greater than Jesus was. Jesus told them about these events, in that when they happen, they would believe, and their faith would increase. Now, from this time, Jesus would not continue to teach them, for the *"prince of this world"* (Satan) comes through the behavior of Judas, but, Satan, the devil could have no authority over Jesus, for Jesus is pure and sinless (never sinned). When we trust and obey Jesus, the enemy is not allowed to get a foothold over us. Jesus wants the world to know that He loves the Father. Whatever commandment the Father gives, Jesus will do. Therefore, He is ready and willing to die, and He will not resist! Jesus tells His disciples to *"Arise and let's go."* The hour has arrived to go to the cross. He voluntarily goes forward to meet His death.

LESSON: I. A COMMAND TO ABIDE JOHN 15:1-8

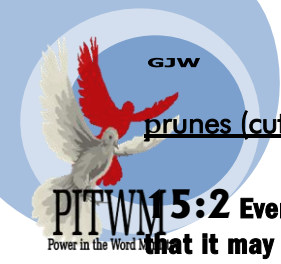
15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. As we see a vine in its physical domain, it is strong, and nourishment comes from it. But we are not looking at a plant, but at a Person (Jesus) in the spiritual. From the very beginning of this verse Jesus makes known as to who He is—"I AM." 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 (1.) 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 our real nourishment unifying all believers. And **the Father** is (2.) the **"Husbandman"** or **"Vinedresser"** and **"Gardener"** who takes care of us; looks after, watches over;

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/john-ma-lbw.htm>
www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

prunes (cuts back), cultivates, cleans and protects what grows on the Vine. We will be known by our fruit!

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. (3.) "Man or Believers" are the Branches. The branches growing from the Vine represent believers, for the purpose of bearing fruit.

(a.) They are either unfruitful or fruit bearing branches of the True Vine.

- Unfruitful branches didn't relate enough to Christ; didn't draw enough nourishment from Him.
- Unfruitful branches are not genuine enough to bear fruit.
 - More pretending than being. ○ More deception than truth. ○ More counterfeit than real.

They may have begun to bud and sprout, but no fruit appeared (like the fig tree that only had leaves and Jesus cursed it).

(b.) Or they are unattached or attached branches of the True Vine. The unattached branches have a problem bearing fruit and are removed; taken away.

However, the branch that bears fruit will be "purged or pruned" (cleansed or purified) by eliminating what is fruitless in order to promote or bring forth more growth and fruit.

Bearing fruit means bearing converts (Rom.1:13); bear righteousness or holiness (Rom.6:21-23); to bear Christian character or the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23). And the conditions for bearing fruit in life are cleansing (v.3), abiding in Christ (v.5), and obedience (vv.10, 12).

Pruning is to prepare the branch to bear more fruit. Pruning is not to punish, not to hurt or damage the branch.

15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Since the above verse talked about fruit, there are three ways fruitful branches are pruned or purged and cleansed.

1. Branches are cleansed by the Words Jesus had spoken to them; by the Word of the Lord Himself. When a man comes to the Word of God sincerely, the Word of God shows; gives a clear picture...
 - a. what he is doing and what he is not doing.
 - b. where he fails and how he fails.
 - c. the sin of commission (knowingly) and of omission (unknowingly).
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 sees Jesus in His perfection. The Word of God then forces man to measure himself against Christ.
3. Branches are cleansed by abiding in Jesus. It can mean a promise or a command.

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.

1. Abiding in Jesus, the Word means the Branches are bearing fruit.

"**Abiding**" means to dwell, continue, stay, sojourn, rest in or upon. The more the branch abides in the vine, the more nourishment a branch draws from the vine, and is able to bear fruit. Jesus is saying there is no I without Me. You can't be unattached, and if you are, you're not abiding in Jesus, 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 it is also with man on the earth without Jesus. He is lifeless and meaningless in the spiritual. Those who seek life and meaning someplace other than in Jesus, are doomed to failure. Jesus commands us to abide in Him and He will abide 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.

2. Abiding in Jesus, the Word means branches bear much fruit.



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

Again, Jesus says He is the Vine, and the believers are the branches. No fruit can be produced without us abiding in Him 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 Jesus.

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, or have a relationship in Him, his fruit or works are cast forth like a branch and will be judged by fire. Dried branches are easy to burn up. This will lead into loss of rewards.

- "Cast forth"—to be plucked off and cast out thrown away, discarded...
- "Withered"—to be dried up, wrinkled, peeled off and cast out...
- "Gathered"—the Day of Judgment arrives.
- "Cast into the fire and burned"

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.

3. Abiding in Jesus means the believers glorifies the Father, for they are believers bearing much fruit. 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 desiring God to save them.
- we see men acknowledging that only God's power could do such.

The bottom line is: attached branches prove they are disciples bearing fruit which glorify the Father—touching the lives of others.

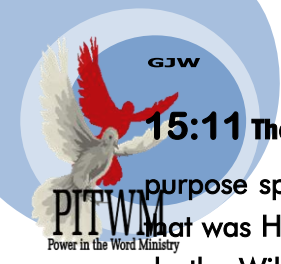
II. A COMMAND TO LOVE JOHN 15:9-17

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 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.

4. Abiding in Jesus means to continue 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. The verse says, **if**. This means it's up to the individual to choose to continue to abide in Jesus' love. Jesus gave Himself as the example we can follow—*"Not my Will but yours be done."*



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

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, and that their joy might be complete, 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 we study God's Word, and it's 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. Our source of joy comes through...

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

15:12 **This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.** The Lord's key in the whole chapter is His supreme commandment concerning love, 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 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 else 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



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

known to Him, He will make known to His friends. **The point is:** 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 are moved to 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 in Jesus' Name. Why? Because **first**, the Father has to **hear you ask**. **Second**, you have to **ask in Jesus' Name**. **Third**, that **He may give** it to you. 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.

SUMMARY:

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 (cleansed, purified, or pruned) in order to promote more growth; to bring forth more fruit (15:2). The Word the Lord had spoken to His disciples will make them clean (15:3). Jesus commands us to abide in Him and He will abide in us. 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). 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 the Father and will begin to bear much fruit in becoming Christ's disciples. The bottom line is: attached branches prove they are disciples by bearing fruit which glorify the Father—touching the lives of others (15:8) (15:1-8).

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). 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) (15:9-17).