

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"The Gospel of John"

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2019-2020

Lesson 58: John 15:5, 11-16:4

I am the vine; ^(J)you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that ^(K)bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, ^(W)that my joy may be in you, and that ^(X)your joy may be full.



"vine" – source of life ("My joy") for the branch; the vehicle of the "vertical relationship" of faith in Jesus.

"branch" – receiver of life and the extender for "fruit" ("your joy") to be shared with the world.

- a. Question: Who (or what situations) need your "fruit?"
- b. In what ways might you have to "repent" (Matthew 3:8) in order to share your "fruit?"

¹² ^(Y)"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³ ^(Z)Greater love has no one than this, ^(AA)that someone lay down his life for his

friends. ¹⁴ You are ^(AB)my friends ^(AC)if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ ^(AD)No longer do I call you servants, ^(a) for the servant ^(AE)does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for ^(AF)all that I have heard from my Father ^(AG)I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but ^(AH)I chose you and appointed you that you should go and ^(AI)bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that ^(AJ)whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

¹⁷ These things I command you, ^(AK)so that you will love one another.

- a. "love one another, as I have loved you." – "as" is the key word. To "love" as Jesus loves is to love without limits, conditions, or pre-requirements.
- b. "Greater love has no one than this" – loving "as" Jesus loved compels a willingness to "lay down his life," i.e. sacrifice yourself for the sake of the relationship: your (Expectations? Rights? What you think you deserve? Conveniences? What you think is fair or just? Security blankets?)
- c. "friends/I have made known to you" vs. "servants...not know what his master is doing" – Jesus changes the nature of our relationship with Him from "servants" to "friends!"
- d. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you" – We are the receivers of Jesus' initiative to pursue us. People do not "choose" or "make a decision" to follow Christ; He chooses us! We respond, in faith, to Jesus' reaching out to us in His Word.
- e. "go and bear fruit" – the purpose of the vineyard is to make grapes!

¹⁸ ^(AL)"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ ^(AM)If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because ^(AN)you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ^(AO)'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, ^(AP)they will also persecute you. ^(AQ)If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But ^(AR)all these things they will do to you ^(AS)on account of my name, ^(AT)because they do not know him who sent me.

a. "If the world hates you" – Why might the world "hate" a follower of Jesus? Jesus' answer is that it hated Him first!

- a. Think about Jesus' life: no one "hated" Him until He began to confront the degraded spiritual condition of the Jewish religious authority, calling them to repentance and back to faith!
- b. **Matthew 23:1-4; 37-38.** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ² "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³ So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴ They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them..." "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate.

- b. **"If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world"** – a believer's relationship to the "world" can be complicated. We are "in" the world, but not "of" the world. We live by a different set of values, even though we are constantly bombarded by what the world says really matters and is virtuous.
 - a. **"the world would love you as its own"** – many people today seek to be loved by the world and have traded their souls for that love.
- c. **"If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."**
- d. **"all these things they will do to you, on account of My name"** – a point in history will come, where the name of Jesus is so repulsive, that the world will actively persecute believers out of a hatred or ignorance of Him.