

Abiding faithfulness

Text: (John 15:1-9)

Introduction:

- 1- There are times of great distress that occur in the lives of Gods people
 - a- Sudden illness, tragic accident, loss of income or job, moral failure, whatever.
 - b- Often comes without warning, but what does one do in such times?
- 2- Turn with me to (John 15:1-9). .(Disciples this was one of those times).

Discussion:

- I- The context: of this great discourse.
 - A- The discourse was during the night of the great last meal just before the passion of the Christ. The Jewish Passover was at hand and later celebrated.
 - 1- Chapter 13 Jesus shows the hand of the betrayer with which Judas departs to do his deed.
 - 2- The disturbing event about who would be greatest is debated, really a time of jealousy among the disciples .Jesus admonishes mutual love as a must and a laying aside the jealousy that true devotion, abiding faithfulness to the Christ and each other is the true way of the disciple of Christ.
 - 3- Chapter 14 tells disciples to let not their hearts be troubled. HE declares himself to be the way the truth and the life. **(14:1-4)** HE declares the coming of the Holy Spirit. **(14: 13-28)**
 - B- Behind this back drop of my Lords troubled spirit and the state of the disciples Jesus gives them and us the words we know as the, **“Vine and the branches.”**
 - 1- Read the passage: (John15:1-9)
 - 2- As you read this precious passage along with the background discussed, we can consider this as an admonition to **‘abiding(enduring, unshakable)faithfulness.’ Abide 10 times in 1-10.**
 - 3- Against such emotional upheaval and the events that would so shortly take place, are several **facts that they cannot deny** and must not overlook. Jesus presents these facts not only to His beloved disciples but also for us.
- II- Here are the facts to be known and remembered.
 - A- **Fact 1: 15:1- Jesus is the true vine his Father is the husbandman.**
 - 1- Israel was once the Vine who showed the love and goodness of God to the world of their day. **(Is 5:1-3)** God states through the prophet such, yet he says that they were in the end a great disappointment.

- a- **Jeremiah 2:21** God had planted a noble vine from good seed and asked, "How can they turn against me." (Into a degenerate plant a strange vine).
- b- Psalms 80:8-19).NB
- 2- Here we see that Jesus is the true vine. The father is the husbandman or the Gardner-cultivator
- 3- Jesus takes that old imagery and makes the application to Himself and His disciples.
 - a- The vinedresser prunes and takes care of the vine.
 - b- I see in this the application that The Father only knows how best to develop and train the heart and personality of man.
- B- **Fact two:** God's Son is now **the true** vine. He is real, authentic and genuine. Thayer makes point about this Greek term; it *denotes that which is genuine; the word stands in contrast to that which is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretentious (Thayer, p. 27)*
 - 1- Jesus as the vine of and has declared the father, **(John 1:18)**.
 - 2- In fact; no doubt can arise, no denial can succeed of this great truth. Rom 1:4 tells us that that Jesus was declared the Son of God by the power of the resurrection from the dead.
 - 3- This gave the disciples and gives you and me today full assurance that Jesus can be fully trusted to do as he promised.
 - 4- This solid fact will not be removed or overcome by doubt or concern that might arise in the hearts of the disciples then or even now!
- C- **Fact three:** God himself is the husbandman; the worker in the soil in which the plant is rooted and grounded. HE is the one who cares for, prunes, nourishes and nurtures the growth of the vine.
 - 1- Paul observes in (1Cor 3:6) that it is God that gives the increase.
 - 2- To those who are now His husbandry, His building and His labourers that work with Him. 1 Cor 3:9).
- D- **Fact four:**
 - 1- **The Apostles and those who are won to Christ through the word will hear the voice of Christ, follow Him and become one flock: By the way, have no doubt that God will and does provide for his own. (John 15:7)**
 - 2- **As with Joshua; Josh 1:5 "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee." (Heb 13:5).**
- E- **Fact Five:**
 - 1- **Christ is the vine and **you are the branches** Verse 5: In this, for us is that spiritual bond that we have with Christ. We are those who are united with and have our origin and life in and with Christ.**

2- When you and I have obeyed the gospel and obedient to the Apostles doctrine we are “all the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.” Gal 3:26-37.

3- Paul expressed it this way, “*I am crucified with Christ...*” Gal 2:20.

III- Admonitions to remain Faithful.

1- Along with the facts just stated there is in the passages of the vine and branches admonitions to remain faithful, to have that abiding faith and love that are characteristic of the Christ people.

2- **Remember:**

a- Each branch has responsibilities! (v2)

b- Each branch is to bear fruit, in fact much fruit.(Vv2,5). **“bearing (i.e., producing) fruit.” The term is used eight times in this chapter. The present tense form indicates a sustained productivity. In speaking to the eleven remaining disciples in the upper room, Jesus chose the metaphor of a vine because of its manifold significance. A vine planted in the ground speaks of the humility of One who came in the form of a man planted in the earth. The figure of a vine pictures an intimate union with branches that are totally dependent upon it. A vine is a classic illustration for showing fruit-bearing as evidence of spiritual productivity.**

c- Each branch is cleaned by the means of the spoken word! (v3)

d- A branch cannot bear fruit of itself!(vv 4,5).

e- A non fruit bearing branch is burned. (v6).

f- Abiding in Christ, having his words abide in you is linked with prayer and prayer being answered.(v 7)

g- God is glorified by fruit bearing disciples.(v8).

h- God’s disciples are to remain in the love of Christ. (v9).

i- Keeping Christ’s commandments causes one to remain in His love. (v9).

j- Christ’s love of God is our model and goal. (v9).

Conclusion:

1- **In concluding this summary of John 15:1-7, one other word should be stressed. Six times in this context the Lord used the expression “in me.” The term is employed of those who are in “union” with Christ. It initially referred to those “disciples” to whom he was giving instruction on that occasion; later, though, the application would be to those who have become “disciples” in a more technical sense (Matthew 28:19), and thus have entered into the “in Christ” relationship by means of obedience to the gospel (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27). These became known formally as “Christians” (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16).**

2- ***I searched the internet and found an interesting piece of info: The Great Vine in the Hampton Court Palace Gardens outside of London is the oldest and largest known***

vine in the world. The Great Vine is more than 230 years old. It measures 12 feet around the base. Its longest rod is 120 feet. The fruit produced each year averages 500 to 700 clusters of grapes that weigh over 500 pounds every year.

- 3-** But as we have seen there is an even greater “Vine” who is Jesus. He is the vine, the Father is the husbandman and we are the branches. So, to have a great faith and abiding faith is about abiding in Christ the true vine.