

John 15 : 1-12—Memory Verses, 5, 6.

Golden Text—Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.—John 15 : 8.



9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you : continue ye in my love.

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.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The caretaker of a vineyard was called the husbandman. Part of his work was to go through the vineyard every season with a pruning knife and cut away any dead or decayed branches he might find. In this way the vines were kept healthy, and afterwards bore larger and sweeter fruit.

On the beautiful Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem, were many orchards and vineyards. Through these Jesus and His disciples had often walked. At the very time of year when they were at the supper in Jerusalem, the young vines were being pruned and trained. It was very natural that Jesus should think of the vine and the branches and draw from them some lessons for His disciples.

He had told the disciples He would be put to death, and they were filled with grief and loneliness. But the Master did not wish to see His disciples unhappy. As they sat about Him, showing their sadness in their faces, He tried to comfort them, and show

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

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 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

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.

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.

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.

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.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit ; so shall ye be my disciples.

them how near His people might be to Him, even if they could not see Him. To make His meaning plainer He said, "I am the Vine ; ye are the branches ; My Father is the Husbandman."

Jesus meant that His kingdom was like a great garden or vineyard in charge of His Heavenly Father. He Himself was like a Vine, giving life and strength to His followers, but it was their part as His branches to bear fruit by doing such good work as would please Him and bring honor to their Heavenly Father. "As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself," said Jesus, "unless it be joined to the vine, no more can you do the things that are pleasing to God, unless you abide in Me. Apart from Me, you can do nothing."

As in a vineyard there are two kinds of branches, those that bear fruit and those that do not, so, Jesus said, the heavenly Husbandman would choose between those servants who serve Him and those who do not. The