

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

Lesson VI.

John 15 : 1-11—Memory Verses 6-8

May 7, 1899

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.

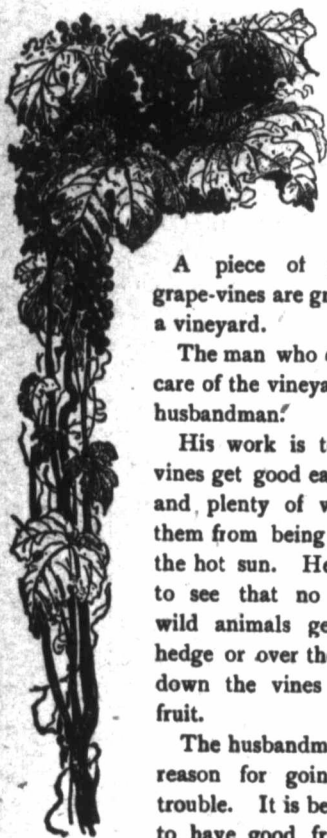
8. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit ; so shall ye be my disciples.

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.

THE LESSON RETOLD



In Palestine where Jesus and His friends lived many people made a living by growing grape-vines.

A piece of ground where grape-vines are growing is called a vineyard.

The man who owns and takes care of the vineyard is called the husbandman.

His work is to see that the vines get good earth to grow in and plenty of water to keep them from being burned up by the hot sun. He watches, too, to see that no rough men or wild animals get through the hedge or over the wall to break down the vines and spoil the fruit.

The husbandman has just one reason for going to all this trouble. It is because he wants to have good fruit and plenty of it.

Sometimes the husbandman finds a branch with no fruit at all. Then he cuts it off the vine

altogether and throws it away. Of course after a branch is cut off the vine it is of no more use—it dries right up and dies. The only thing it is good for then is to make a fire.

It always gave Jesus pleasure to walk through a vineyard and see the branches loaded with fruit, but the sight of dead, useless branches made Him sad.

Once Jesus said to His disciples, "I am the true vine, you are the branches, my Father is the husbandman."

Jesus meant that God, His Father, takes just as good care of those who love Him as the husbandman takes of his vines.

He called His disciples branches because it is from them that God expects to find fruit.

The fruits God is looking for are love, joy, peace, gentleness, faith, and a great many other like things.

Jesus called Himself the vine because He lives to help the branches to do their work.

He said, "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine ; no more can ye except ye abide in me."

He said, too, that if they kept close to Him and did as He wished them to do, they should feel their hearts full of His love, and, therefore, would be glad all the time ; and He said, too, that the more fruitful in every good word and in every good work they were the more God, their Father, would be praised by men.