

Lesson VII.

JESUS THE TRUE VINE

May 13, 1917

John 15 : 1-13. Study John 15 : 1-16. *Scripture Memory Verses, Gen. 21 : 14-17.

Golden Text—I am the vine, ye are the branches.—John 15 : 5.

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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.

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

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In the country where Jesus lived, the farmers had very large fields of grape vines. These were called vineyards. There were rows and rows of the green vines, and in the autumn you might see the big bunches of purple grapes peeping from under the green leaves.

The farmer went through his vineyard every day, and when he noticed any branch without fruit on it, he broke it off and threw it on the ground. When he saw the branches with fruit on them, he was pleased, and carefully picked off the withered leaves so that the branch might be strong to bear more fruit.

Every day the farmer went up and down

among his vines, and when he was gone, there were the useless branches lying on the ground where the farmer had thrown them. Of course they could never bear any fruit because they were broken off from the vine, and very soon they became withered and dried, and the farmer sent his men to gather up the withered branches and carry them away to be burned. So that was the end of the useless branches that did not bear any fruit.

Now Jesus, while he was sitting with them at the supper table in that guest room in Jerusalem, was thinking of a vineyard. He knew that it would be the last supper he would eat with his disciples on earth, for he

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