**JOHN 15:1-3**

**4/3/19**

**Intro – Tonight, We Embark On A Brand New Chapter In John – Chapter 15. This Chapter Is A Continuation Of Jesus’ Discourse With The 11 Disciples (*Judas Has Already Defected*).**

**As John 15 Takes Place, Jesus’ Arrest In The Garden Of Gethsemane Is *Close At Hand*. As Well, The Trials Of Christ, And His Crucifixion Are Only Hours Away.**

**However, Before These Things, Jesus Has Many Deep And Wondrous Lessons To Impart To His Disciples (*And To You And Me*).**

**There Are Many Ways One Might Divide This Chapter, However, We Are Going To Follow The Lead Of Author Merrill Tenney[[1]](#footnote-1) And Divide John 15 Into 3 Distinct Sections.**

**(Slide 2) (Handout)**

The Relation Of The Believers To Jesus

15:1-11

The Relation Of Believers To Each Other

15:12-17

The Relation Of Believers To The World

15:18-27

**Throughout Our Time In Chapter 15, We Want To Answer This Question: Of Which Of These Do I Need To Improve?**

**1. (Slide 3 – *Photo Attached*)**

**Our Lesson Begins With What Is Commonly Known As The “Parable Of The Vine.”**

**2. V. 1a – Jesus Opens The Chapter With A *Declarative* And *Enlightening* Statement. What Is It?**

**3. Vineyards Were Extremely Common In Israel. Everyone Had At Least, A Familiarity With Vines – And With Their Growth, Their Care, And How They Produced Fruit.**

**4. Some Of You May Also Be Somewhat Familiar With What Is More Common In Our Area – Grape Vines.**

**5. If You Owned A Grapevine, And You Wanted To Help Me Have My Own Grapevine, What Would Do? (*Cut A Section Of Your Vine For Me, And I Will Plant That Cutting*)**

**6. This Process Can Literally Go And On And On, And Grapevines Can Be Passed Along To An Infinite Number Of People.**

**7. However, Let’s Note Again, What Jesus Says Of Himself. As It Pertains To The Vine, How Does He Describe Himself?**

**(Slide 4)**

“The *True* Vine”

The *Authentic*

The *Beginning*

The *Source*

The *Original*

**8. Jesus Makes The Last Of His Great “I Am” Statements, And Declares That He Alone, Is The Source Of Spiritual Life!**

**9. V. 1b – Jesus Continues This Imagery Of The Vine. What Does He Say Next?**

**10. What Does The Word “Husbandman” Mean In This Verse? (*Vinedresser/Vineyard Keeper*)**

**11. According To Commentator Albert Barnes, Here Is The Image That Jesus Wants Us To See Concerning The Father:**

**(Slide 5)**

“God Gave, Or Appointed His Son To Be, The Source Of Blessings To Man; That All Grace Descends Through Him; And That God Takes Care Of All The Branches Of This Vine - That Is, Of All Who Are By Faith United To The Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus And All His Church He Feels The Deepest Interest, And It Is An Object Of Great Solicitude That His Church Should Receive These Blessings And Bear Much Fruit.”

* Albert Barnes

**12. Growing Up, We Had Two Very Large Scuppernong Grapevines In Our Yard. My Grandfather Took Care Of Them By Building Posts And Poles, To Elevated The Branches Off Of The Ground. *However, There Is Much More To Being A Vinedresser Than That.***

**12. Does Anyone Know The Most Important Task Of A Vinedresser In The Care Of His Vineyard?**

**(Slide 6)**

Pruning!

**13. V. 2a – In This Parable, Jesus Not Only Speaks Of The Vine, But Of What Other Part Of The Plant, Does He Speak? (*The Branches*)**

**14. To Understand This Parable, It Is Important For Us To Recognize The Two Kinds Of Branches Described, And What Each Kind Represents.**

**15. V. 2a – What Does Jesus Say Of The First Kind Of Branch?**

**16. A Good Vinedresser Does Not Prune Or Tend To A Dry, Dead, Lifeless Branch. What Does A Vinedresser Do With This Kind Of Branch? (*Cuts It Off*)**

**17. Who Does This Branch Represent?**

**(Slide 7)**

Those, Who Profess Christianity, Yet, Have No Evidence (Fruit) Of A True Relationship With Christ.

**18. V. 2b – How Is The Second Kind Of Branch Described? (*One That Bears Fruit*)**

**19. What Does This Branch Represent?**

**(Slide 8)**

The True Believer, Whose Relationship To Christ Is Evident By The *Fruit* They Produce.

Matthew 13:23
But He That Received Seed Into The Good Ground Is He That Heareth The Word, And Understandeth *It;* Which Also Beareth Fruit, And Bringeth Forth, Some An Hundredfold, Some Sixty, Some Thirty.

**20. V. 2c – According To The Rest Of Verse 2, What Does The Vinedresser Do In Order To Ensure The Good Branch Produces More And Better Fruit? (Prunes)**

**21. What Does The Vinedresser (God) Do In Order To Ensure That The Good Branches (True Christians) Produce More And Better Fruit? (*Same Thing!)***

**22. What Are Some Of The Means And Methods That God Uses To Prune You And Me? (*Removes Dead Things That Hinder Our Ability To Produce More And Better Spiritual Fruit*)**

**(Slide 9)**

* Chastises Us For The Sin That Hinders Us.
* Removes People From Our Lives That Hinder Our Spiritual Growth.
* Removes Us From Situations That Hinder Our Spiritual Growth.
* Allows Trials In Our Life To Strengthen Our Faith.

*Often, These Are Painful Processes!*

**24. V. 3 - Jesus Speaks Now Directly, And Specifically To His 11 Disciples. What Does He Say?**

**25. Jesus Declares That They Are All “Clean.” There Was A Time When Jesus Did Not Say This Of The Group. Does Anyone Remember When That Was?**

**26. Let’s Look At *John 13:10.***

**27. Judas, Who Was Among Them, But Not One Of Them – Took Part Of The Foot Washing And The Supper – *But Was Not A True Branch!***

1. Tenney, Merrill C. *John: The Gospel of Belief*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1976 (pages 226-229). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)