

## **I AM THE TRUE VINE**

### **John 15:1-8**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. We look at the seventh and final “I Am” statement of Jesus Christ.
- B. Background:
  - 1. Probably on the way from the upper room to Gethsemane, John 14:31.
  - 2. The vine allegory may have come about as they passed vineyards from Jerusalem to Gethsemane.
  - 3. Another possibility is that they may have stopped at the temple and noticed the impressive gold vine adorning the entrance to the sanctuary.
  - 4. The vine and the branches would symbolize a “closer” relationship than the parable of the sheep and Good Shepherd.

#### **I. I AM THE TRUE VINE..., vs. 1.**

- A. The Vineyard of Israel.
  - 1. Ps. 80:8-15
  - 2. A brief history of God’s chosen people.
    - a. Called out of Egypt.
    - b. Covenant at Mt. Sinai.
    - c. Religious leaders failed.
      - i. Why? Because unfaithfulness and separation from God.
      - ii. Jer. 5:30-31; Hos. 4:6
- B. Jesus, The True Vine (Gr. – real, genuine, authentic.).
  - 1. Religious leaders of the day boasted the seed of Abraham, Jn. 8:39-41, 44.
  - 2. Many false teachers today.
    - a. 2 Tim. 4:3-4
    - b. Buddha removed out of Buddhism or Mohammed out of the Muslim belief, nothing changes.
    - c. Take Christ out of Christianity, you have NOTHING, 1 Cor. 15:19.
  - 3. Attested by signs and wonders.
    - a. Jn. 20:30-31
    - b. Acts 2:22, 32, 36
  - 4. No other name, Acts 4:12.

#### **II. MY FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER [caretaker, farmer], vs. 1.**

- A. Care of Branches.
  - 1. Only two types of branches.
    - a. Speaking of those attached to the vine, NOT referring to unbelievers.
    - b. Fruit bearing or fruit barren.
    - c. Rose bush and suckers.
      - i. Sap energy from the plant.
      - ii. Can take over completely.
    - d. According to God’s standards, Jn. 15:7.
  - 2. Pruning for more and more fruit, vs. 2, 5, 8.
    - a. Trials and tribulations.

- b. James 1:2-4
  - c. 2 Cor. 1:3-4
  - d. Abiding in Christ. Jn. 15:5, *“You must go on growing in Me and I will grow in you. For just as the branch cannot bear any fruit unless it shares the life of the vine, so you can produce nothing unless you go on growing in Me”* (Phillips trans.).
3. Cutting off bad branches.
- a. John the Baptist, Mt. 3:10.
  - b. Jesus and the fig tree, Mt. 21:18-19.
    - i. Leaves were a sign of fruit.
    - ii. No fruit on the tree.
    - iii. Claim to be righteous, but are we? Jn. 15:6, *“The man who does not share My life is like a branch that is broken off and withers away. He becomes just like the dry sticks that men pick up and use for firewood”* (Phillips trans.).
  - c. We are pruned in God’s way and in God’s time.
    - i. Example of Judas and Peter.
      - aa. Judas went out and hung himself, Mt. 27:5.
      - bb. Peter repented and preached Pentecost, Acts 2.
    - ii. The reason for the warning in 1 Cor. 11:30-31?
    - iii. Heb. 12:10

### **III. BEARING FRUIT FOR CHRIST, vs. 5.**

- A. What Kind of Fruit?
  - 1. Actions of righteousness.
    - a. Gal. 5:22-25
    - b. Mt. 5-7, especially 5:48, *“Be perfect...”*
    - c. Phil. 2:5-7
  - 2. Souls, harvest, send forth reapers, Mt. 9:37-38.
    - a. Mt. 28:18-20
    - b. Purpose of the church, Eph. 3:7-11.
- B. Through Christ.
  - 1. Plant and water, 1 Cor. 3:6-9.
  - 2. Have we become judges of who is deserving.
- C. Are We Bearing Fruit for Jesus Today?
  - 1. Jn. 15:5, apart from Christ.
    - a. Must abide in Him – obedience, Jn. 15:9, 10.
  - 2. Eph. 2:12-13, only through the blood of Christ.