

# In the Vineyard of the Lord

## John 15:1-8

- Vineyards were/are common in the middle east – remember the 12 spies – Num. 13:23.
- The kingdom of God appears under different metaphors – A field, net, mustard seed, leaven in meal, a vineyard.
- The Vine is Christ & the branches are His individual disciples.
- The passage addresses what it takes to have a fruitful and joyful relationship with Christ! See v. 11.

### It Is God's Vineyard

- He is the husbandman – Jn. 15:1.
- Israel was His vineyard – Isa. 5:1-7; Jer. 2:21; 12:10
- The church is His vineyard – Mat. 20:1-16.
- 1 Cor. 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” Also Acts 20:28.
- Sometimes people get confused – Mk. 12:1-9 & Lk. 20:9-16.

### Needs To Be Pruned

- Pruned – left to itself, the unprofitable ruins the profitable – Jn. 15:2, 6.
- False teachers – Mat. 7:15-20; 2 Pet. 2:1
- False Christs – Mat. 24:24
- False accusers – Acts 6:13; 2 Tim. 3:3
- False apostles – 2 Cor. 11:13
- False brethren – 2 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 2:4
- Light & Nourishment – Jn. 15:3-5.
- Christ is the Light – Jn. 1:1-4; 3:18-21.
- Some love darkness rather than light because, “their deeds are evil” – Jn. 11:46-53 & Acts 23:21.
- Christ is the Bread of Life – Jn. 6:32-38; 47-58. Also Mat. 4:4; Lk. 4:4.
- Jn. 8:31-32 – Continuing in His word leads to truth &

Mat. 13:24-30;  
15:13

freedom! Also Jn 14:6.Eph. 1:13.

### Expected To Be Fruitful

- Only by abiding in Christ can disciples be fruitful – Jn 15:4, 8
- No fruit – Mat. 21:18-19.
- The wrong fruit – Gal. 5:19-21; cf. Deu. 32:32-33.
- The right fruit – Gal 5:22-26.
- What does *Your* garden grow?

### Decision...

- The Vineyard, the church of Christ, is the Lord's.
- We can enjoy the blessings of the Vineyard today...
- If we are faithful Christians.
- If we respect and tend the church as Christ's possession.
- If we produce the fruit of the Spirit in our words and deeds.
- If we remember, apart from Him we can do nothing!

**Num 13:23** Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. *They* also *brought* some of the pomegranates and figs. (Eshol means “cluster”)

Isa 5:1-7 & **Jer 2:21** Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?

**Jer 12:10** "Many rulers have destroyed My vineyard, They have trodden My portion underfoot; They have made My pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

**Mat 7:15** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

**2Pe 2:21** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

**Mat 24:24** For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.  
**THEY WILL BE EXTRAORDINARILY PERSUASIVE!**

**Eph 1:13** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard **the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

**Mat 21:18** Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry.

**Mat 21:19** And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "**Let no fruit grow on you ever again.**" Immediately the fig tree withered away.

**Gal 5:19** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

**Gal 5:20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

**Gal 5:21** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Deu 32:32** For their vine *is* of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes *are* grapes of gall, Their clusters *are* bitter.

**Deu 32:33** Their wine *is* the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras.

**Gal 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

**Gal 5:23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Gal 5:24** And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**Gal 5:25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

**Gal 5:26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

## “Nothing but leaves”

Nothing but leaves; the spirit grieves  
Over a wasted life;  
Sin committed while conscience slept,  
Promises made, but never kept,  
Hatred, battle, and strife;  
Nothing but leaves!

Nothing but leaves; no garnered sheaves  
Of life's fair, ripened grain;  
Words, idle words, for earnest deeds;  
We sow our seeds,—lo! tares and weeds:  
We reap, with toil and pain,  
Nothing but leaves!

Nothing but leaves; memory weaves  
No veil to screen the past:  
As we retrace our weary way,  
Counting each lost and misspent day,  
We find, sadly, at last,  
Nothing but leaves!

And shall we meet the Master so,  
Bearing our withered leaves?  
The Saviour looks for perfect fruit,  
We stand before him, humbled, mute;  
Waiting the words he breathes,—  
“Nothing but leaves?”

~Lucy Evelina Akerman